

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a full Council Meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023 at 6.30pm in the village hall.

Present:

Cllr L Needham (Chair)	Cllr S Gerrard
Cllr R Fazackerley	Cllr A Harris
Cllr D Cannon	Cllr Tate

C Turlington (Deputy Clerk)	16 Members of the public
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23/133 **Co-option of new members:** None

23/134 **Matters arising from the Public (Meeting Adjourned):**

1 member of the public said that he was speaking on behalf of residents of Rearsby Roses (and East Goscote generally) regarding the planning application P/23/1931/2. He started by mentioning that adjacent residents had not received written notice and then summarised the objections:

- Highways Safety – the entry point is a narrow private road, with no lighting and only one way in and out, which would be hazardous with the additional traffic.
- Noise – the use of shift working staff, police, and service providers would cause a nuisance.
- Impact on the community – there is the risk of anti-social behaviour; Rearsby Roses is a quiet, safe, friendly area – a civic community.
- Economic impact – property values would reduce – there has been a 25% drop in prices elsewhere.
- Other councils have rejected these applications in other areas.
- The deeds for Rearsby Roses prohibit houses being turned into commercial properties, and to only have one family residing there.
- The provider is inexperienced – this is a profit driven enterprise.

He requested that the Parish Council support the objections and call this in.

Further residents made additional comments in support of this.

Cllr Needham said that the Council can comment on planning matters, and this will be discussed during the meeting. She said that as Borough Councillor she can call this in. Any objection has to be based on material considerations and it is difficult to identify those for this application. She proposed that the resident speaking on behalf of others becomes the lead contact and liaison between the Borough Councillor, Parish Council and residents and this was agreed. She also suggested that a meeting is held with the applicant to obtain further information.

Cllr Gerrard asked that this item be brought forward on the agenda and Cllr Needham said this would be considered when the meeting was reopened after the other members of the public had had their opportunity to speak.

1 member of the public raised the following:

- He requested an update regarding the visibility issues with mirrors on the cycle path at Queniborough and Cllr Needham advised that she has not received a response from the police regarding this.
- As Flood Warden he requested that Councillors check for blocked drains when completing the maintenance checks and report this to either himself or the Clerk.
- After reading about the number of pigeons in the recent Long Furrow magazine and the increase in avian flu, he queried what could be done about this. Cllr Needham said that she has received numerous complaints regarding this and will investigate further.

Our Ex Tree Warden mentioned that he would have considered being tree warden again but

an environmental plan was needed. He queried if he is still on the record with LCC as being the tree warden for East Goscote and the Deputy Clerk will investigate this and update accordingly.

- 23/135 **Planning Matters: P/23/1931/2 – Proposed change of use from residential (C3) to Childrens Care Home C2)**
 Standing Order 7(e) invoked
 Cllr Needham advised that she has been informed that the date for comments has been extended to 30th November 2023. She asked for comments from Cllrs and after discussion it was RESOLVED to object on the grounds that a commercial property isn't in line with the covenant and deeds for the property, a commercial enterprise would create additional traffic, waste etc, and that the private road is for use by residents (including the parking lay-bys which are owned by the residents, for visitors of the residents). The objection letter will also request additional information and state that further comments may be made following this. Cllr Needham to draft the letter of objection. Delegated powers were given to the Clerk to submit additional comments if required.
- 23/136 **Matters arising from the Police.**
 A police report was received and there were 2 crimes reported. There has been a change to the Beat Team, and this was noted. Cllr Needham said that she has raised concerns with the police regarding incidents behind the shops.
- 23/137 **Apologies for absence:** L Pizer (Clerk), Cllr J Poland
- 23/138 **To report any declarations of interest:** Cllr Needham re Greener Goscote; Cllr Fazackerly re Village Hall; Cllr Cannon re Greener Goscote, Long Furrow, and Library.
- 23/139 **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meetings held on 16th October**
 The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceeding. Cllr Gerrard abstained as wasn't in attendance at the last meeting.
- 23/140 **Matters arising from the minutes**
- 23/068 – Information regarding the EMA Flight Path funding was circulated on 12th October. This is something that could be considered should funding for a project be required, but this must be over and above the core activities and statutory obligations of the council.
 - 23/082 – Visibility issues on the Cycle path – Cllr Needham said that she hasn't received a response from the police.
 - 23/092 – The risk assessments have been carried out and are on the agenda for approval.
 - 23/092 – Electrical works have been carried out at the pavilion
 - 23/104 – A meeting has been held with Cara Baker. There is a query regarding the landowner, and she is setting up another meeting with the FA and the football club.
 - 23/118 – Our Caretaker has removed the branches from the streetlights along Weavers Wynd.
 - 23/118 – The Section 178 licence has not yet been received for the Christmas Lights.
 - 23/120 – Carriageway works to the Long Furrow – Letters have been sent to the residents and we have put the press release and map on our website, on Spotted and on the noticeboards. Works will include patching and refreshing the white lines and crossings.
 - 23/124 – The kissing gate was ordered on 17th October and will hopefully be installed week commencing 20th November.
 - 23/127 – Cllr Cannon advised that he had purchased the bluebells.
 - 23/128 – The dog warden carried out his last visit on 9th November

- 23/129 – Mound Survey – this requires a structural engineer consultant to determine the findings which CBC are in the process of obtaining quotes for.
- 23/132 – Cllr Needham attended on behalf of the council. A new wreath was purchased but not needed, so this can be used next year, and a donation made to the RBL.

23/141

County Councillors Report

Cllr Poland's report was shared with Councillors at the meeting. This included:

- Wildlife boost as projects get almost £27,000 to tackle invasive species – Projects aimed at protecting the native plants and animals around Leicestershire by monitoring, gathering data and managing invasive species have received a total of almost £27,000 from Defra and Natural England. Anyone who is interested in volunteering to be part of the Invasive to Natives or the INNS Keepers projects is asked to email EnvironmentTeam@leics.gov.uk to find out more.
- Apply now for food and fuel support – Leicestershire residents who need help with food and energy costs can apply for a new round of grants. Eligible households can apply now to receive an average of £200 in food and energy costs. More information and the online application form for support can be found at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/household-support-fund.
- Council ready to protect Leicestershire roads this winter – Come ice, snow or frost, Leicestershire County Council is prepared for winter, with 18,500 tonnes of salt stored in grit barns across the county ready for when temperatures start to fall. The county council is also encouraging residents and businesses to be 'flood aware' following the heavy rainfall that caught the county recently. People can sign up for flood warnings at <https://gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings> and the council is also advising people to run through a checklist of things to do at <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/prepare-for-flooding>.

Cllrs were advised to contact Cllr Poland with any questions.

23/142

Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Needham circulated a report prior to the meeting. This included:

- Cow Field at Rearsby – planning application withdrawn
- Planning – as a result of considerable challenges faced by the planning department, an independent review of the services was undertaken last year which found that many of the processes and procedures were overly bureaucratic and out of sync with best practice. The Borough Councillors support these independent recommendations to make the planning service work better.
- Members Grant – these have now been allocated, with the grants opening again in Spring 2024.
- Free Trees – there will be a free tree giveaway this weekend.
- Issues with Fleury Court – these appear to have settled, although some issues behind the shops have been passed on to the police.

There were no questions for Cllr Needham.

23/143

Reports from Reps on other Committees

VHMC – Next meeting January 2024 – The new table tennis club launch is tomorrow 21st November.

LONG FURROW – The Latest edition was delivered last week, although there appears to be some issues with residents not receiving a copy. Cllr Cannon will follow this up. The deadline for the next edition is 1st January.

PAV & PLAYING FIELD – Cllr Harris completed the playground checks for November.

TREES – No report.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS –The Santa event and the afternoon tea application form has been featured in the Autumn Long Furrow and application forms have been placed in the Library and Café. So far, we have issued 40 tickets.

Councillors were asked to help out either setting up or clearing away on the day.

Cllr Harris asked for donations for raffle prizes.

The Church has their tree festival on the weekend of 8th December. The theme is animals in the bible. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk would dress the Parish Council tree.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – Cllr Harris is still waiting for leaflets.

WILDFLOWER VERGE UPDATE – Cllr Cannon, Cllr Tate and Greener Goscote volunteers raked the verge and planted more seeds.

GREENER GOSCOTE– Cllr Cannon issued a report and there were no questions. The Deputy Clerk asked for a new map of the Queens Green Canopy when the trees have been replanted with new species. Looking forward, Cllr Cannon said that he will refurbish the Recycling Centre A board, assemble the Nature Garden interpretation board and prepare all the raised beds for the winter. Cllr Cannon added that he has finished raking the nature garden and propped the fence up again.

23/144

Proposed Accounts

Accounts to the sum of £6071.59 were accepted for November by the Council. The bank reconciliation and relevant statements were checked along with the invoices and signed off by Cllr Needham and Cllr Tate.

23/145

Correspondence

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

- Carriageway works, various locations – approx. 4 days commencing 20th November.
- Snow Warden scheme info – Training required for our caretaker.
- Free Trees – it was agreed that this be considered after reviewing the recommendations from the ecological survey.
- Mound – structural engineer consultant required to interpret survey findings and identify if any maintenance required.
- SLCC draft climate action benefits template
- HR advice re policies
- Requisition of foul water sewer – Lilac Way – the Clerk has requested more information.
- Letter re deterioration of court – namely moss – requires cleaning – the Clerk has replied.

23/146

Appointment of a Tree Warden

The Chair confirmed that the post was advertised in the Long Furrow, a resident who had previously attended the Parish Council meeting had written in to offer his services.

Following the comments by the Ex Tree Warden during the public forum, Cllr Needham proposed that as we don't currently have the resources to adopt an environmental plan, we appoint the applicant as Tree Warden; taking on board the comments received with a view to looking at creating a plan in the future.

RESOLVED to appoint the resident as our new Tree Warden. The Deputy Clerk will contact LCC to ensure they have the correct Tree Warden details and establish if there is any training available.

- 23/147 **To consider closing the tennis court over the winter/removing net/cleaning.**
We have received a letter concerning the moss on the court. The problem being that leaves etc. do collect on the court at this time of year. We may need to consider the professional cleaning of the court at the precept meeting.
RESOLVED that we try to keep the court open until December. However, should the weather become very cold and frosty, or the court extremely slippery, our Caretaker has delegated powers to remove the net and close the court. It was also suggested that we add a note on the website when people book advising users that they play on the court at their own risk. A sign will also be placed on the gate.
- 23/148 **To consider the risk assessments for street furniture/office/pavilion**
The Clerk circulated the reports received from Essential Safety Solutions to all Councillors for their consideration along with a summary document. For the most part the issues can be dealt with by our caretaker. RESOLVED to approve the risk assessments.
- 23/149 **Reaching People Fund a) update on event numbers b) to receive the report from the ecologist**
a) The Chair reported that the office has received 4 registers of interest (1 Councillor, 3 residents) to attend the homes for hibernators event on 25th November in the pavilion. Cllr Cannon will continue to promote this. The Deputy Clerk will ask the school if they could email the poster to parents this week.
b) Dr O'Brien has submitted the 53-page ecological appraisal for Councillor consideration along with some recommendations and actions. It was noted that the report was received, and that the Council is grateful to Dr O'Brien for the work she has put into this.
c) It was suggested that any recommendations are discussed on an individual basis, each with its own costings, benefits, staff involvement, possible grants, public consultation considerations, and a timeline for completion; with each proposal requiring a full council decision. RESOLVED that Cllrs Needham, Cannon and Tate form a working party to work on the recommendations and provide suggestions/priorities for the way forward.
- 23/150 **Review of the Community response plan**
The Deputy Clerk has updated the response plan with the latest contact details and helpline numbers. It was suggested that the original team working on the response plan get together to review this and complete the information which is missing, namely the team roles and checking the emergency kit. Cllr Tate offered to fill the vacancy. Resolved that Cllr Needham arrange a meeting. This will be brought back to a future meeting for approval by full council.
- 23/151 **To confirm our 2024 Meeting Dates**
RESOLVED that the dates be approved as per the attached sheet. All Councillors were not happy to sign the motion to change to the third Monday of the month so it therefore will remain on the second Monday as per standing orders unless a resolution of the full council is agreed the previous month.
- 23/152 **Maintenance**
- Checking of drains to be added to the maintenance sheet as per the comments received from the public.
 - The fencing around the village green play area has been repaired.
 - The yellow gate was being worked on this week. Currently the gate has been removed as the new part was unsuccessful in curing the problem. We believe a new piston is required for the gate. Parts have been ordered for a further two gates on the mound play area to ensure they close correctly. The cost for the new piston amounts to £186. RESOLVED to proceed.
 - Replacement hedge plants were requested and will be delivered F.O.C for replanting on Bracken Dale at the end of November. We will also apply Root Grow to ensure

that they thrive. It was RESOLVED to cut the current plants back in preparation for the planting.

- Due to the high winds, some of the poppies have been damaged. RESOLVED to purchase 20 new ones for next year.
- It was confirmed that Cllr Cannon has a bollard key should any issues arise on the caretakers' non-working days.

23/153

Items approved for Expenditure

Piston for Village Green Gate - £186

Poppies

23/154

Urgent items by permission of the Chairman

Cllr Cannon expressed his concern over the short consultation period for the Public Transport Scrutiny Panel which was circulated on 7th November. Cllr Needham said that she has raised this with CBC and advised that should anyone have anything they wish to raise in regard to public transport they send through to the Clerk to submit to the panel.

23/155

Update from the Staffing Meeting

(Standing order 3v invoked) Public and press are asked to leave the meeting.

All staff have had their appraisals, and the budget requirement has been set by the staffing committee.

Date of next Meeting:

Precept Meeting Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 1.00 p.m. (Papers issued) – apologies Cllr Gerrard

Full Council Wednesday 11th December 2023 at 6.30pm – apologies Cllr Needham

The Meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

C Turlington

21st November 2023