

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Full Council meeting held on Monday 11th December at 6.30 p.m. at the East Goscote Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr C Tate (Chair)
Cllr R Fazackerley
Cllr S Gerrard

Cllr D Cannon
Cllr A Harris

Mrs L Pizer (Clerk)

Mrs C Turlington (Deputy Clerk)

2 Members of Public

23/156

Co-option of new members

None

23/157

Matters arising from the Public (Meeting adjourned)

1 resident requested that the abandoned cars in the car parks around the village be removed. The Clerk advised that as this is private land the police are unable to assist, but she can write to Jelson's as it is their land, reporting the registration numbers and this was agreed. The resident will give the Clerk the registration numbers.

1 resident mentioned that he has joined the Community Response Team, and he felt that there was good progress at the recent planning meeting.

23/158

Matters arising from the Police

The police were absent from the meeting. Cllr Tate mentioned that she has been informed of a burglary in the area.

A report was received following the meeting – received 11th December for past 30 days:

- 12-30th November – 3 thefts of or from a vehicle
- 30th November – theft of a skip at The Warren
- 1st December – burglary Ploughman's Lea

23/159

Apologies for Absence: Cllr L Needham, Cllr J Poland

23/160

To report any declarations of interest: Cllr Cannon regarding the Long Furrow and Greener Goscote, Cllr Fazackerley regarding Village Hall

23/161

To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting held on 20th November 2023

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

23/162

Matters arising from the minutes

- 23/134 – Pigeons – Cllr Needham provided an update: from a Council/Env health perspective, they would step in where there might be a threat to health. The advice generally is to make sure they are not being fed, make sure there's not litter, and refuse left out, put in measures to stop them roosting. She needs a bit more information about where there are becoming a nuisance, then she can see what might be done. The Deputy Clerk will inform her of the issues in Thatcher's Corner and Woodmans Chase, with any other areas being reported directly to her.
- 23/082 – Visibility issues on the cycle path – Cllr Needham provided an update: The police can't require these be installed but she has spoken to the resident who made the

initial enquiry and advised that he speaks to Cllr Poland as this may be a Highways issue. She is happy to try and pursue further if that doesn't work.

- 23/124 – Kissing Gate – this has been installed. There was an issue with the gate staying closed and a spring has been fitted to rectify this.
- 23/143 – Issues with Long Furrow magazine delivery – Cllr Cannon followed this up and advised that one area had been delivered late and that he intends to ensure a target date for delivery of the next edition.
- 23/145 – Snow Warden – training brochures have been given to the snow warden volunteers and PPE requested.
- 23/146 – Tree Warden – the details for our Tree Warden have been updated with LCC and a training leaflet issued.
- 23/147 – Tennis Court – our Caretaker took the decision to close this on 23rd November due to the court being very slippery.
- 23/150 – Community Response Plan – the group met on 6th December with another meeting planned for 20th December. To be added to a future agenda when plans are in place.
- 23/152 – Piston for Yellow Gate – this has been ordered and will hopefully be fitted before Christmas.
- 23/152 – Bracken Dale Hedge – new hedges planted 28th November.
- 23/152 – Poppies – to be ordered in due course.

23/163

Borough Councillors Report

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

- Contact with the police regarding several issues raised by residents:
 - They have advised that the mirrors to improve visibility at the junction between Melton Road and Syston Road is not enforceable by Police, but that it may be a matter for Highways.
 - Noted concerns about possible criminal activity behind Merchants Common and urge residents to report these to themselves or Crime Stoppers.
- Speeding along Melton Road continues to be of concern and there are planned speed checks in the new year. Deputy Clerk advises that SpeedWatch have noted EGPC interest in a scheme for 2024.
- No updates on Redrow development. There have been street name suggestions circulated based on tree species and the historical nursery nearby.
- Work to update and refresh the resilience plan continues, with flooding defence/response being identified as the most likely challenge to the village at this time. The next meeting is Weds 20th December.
- Christmas Events – The Christmas Tree festival and Santa at the Library both had good attendance. Thanks go to the volunteers who made these events possible and for what sounded like a very successful afternoon tea on Saturday.

Cllrs were advised to contact Cllr Needham with any questions.

23/164

County Councillors Report

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

- Waste and Recycling site consultation – People are being urged to have their say on plans to make changes to the recycling and household waste sites service, as the council looks to reduce costs whilst minimising the impact on residents. Proposed closures would save £270,000 per year, with the change in summer opening hours saving a further £150,000 per year. The consultation was agreed by the county council's cabinet meeting on 24 October and is open until Wednesday 24 January 2024 at www.leicestershire.gov.uk/waste-site-changes.

- Volunteers sought to help record county's important trees – A new app which allows people to record the most valuable and important trees in the county has been developed by Leicestershire County Council. The Mergin app can be used to capture details of ancient trees and those which might benefit from Tree Preservation Orders. Volunteers will need to complete around two hours of training on how to use the app, and will be signed up as Environment Action Volunteers, before being asked to go out and catalogue an initial 10 trees. The app is being promoted to Leicestershire's 125 Tree Wardens in a bid to build a clear picture of the county's trees. Those wardens who come forward to do the training and have permission from their parish to participate can get involved. Anyone who would like to find out more about volunteering to become an Environment Action Volunteer and to help catalogue county's trees should email environmentteam@leics.gov.uk.
- Cllr Poland wished all Councillors, staff, and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Cllrs were advised to contact Cllr Poland with any questions.

23/165

Reports from Reps on other Committees

VHMC – Date of next meeting 16th January 2024.

PAV/PLAYING FIELD – The playground check was completed by Cllr Harris on 28th November. December's checks will be carried out by the Clerk before the Christmas break. Ensuring the pitches are maintained after the Boxing Day Charity Match was mentioned and Cllr Gerrard suggesting investigating machinery that can remove the excess water using the EMA fund. The office staff will consider the feasibility of this and look again at the terms of the grant.

LONG FURROW – The deadline for the next edition is January 1st, 2024. Feedback from the circus and afternoon tea events will be featured, along with advertising the APM and the Parish News. A QR Code to CBC to report dog concerns will be investigated and included if possible.

TREES – A resident complaint has been received regarding trees lifting the slabs to the side of his property. The Clerk, Caretaker and Tree Warden visited on 11th December. The Clerk said the boundary lines were unclear. The possible options include:

1. Remove the trees that are affecting his slabs – the resident has advised that he doesn't want the trees removed.
2. Claim through the insurance, although the resident has advised that he would prefer not to do this.
3. Council employees to complete the works – the resident asked if the council could carry out the work required to remove the roots and relay the slabs. The Clerk is taking advice about this as EGPC hasn't carried out work on private land in the past.
4. The resident completes the work himself.

After discussion it was RESOLVED that this be rectified either through the insurance or by the resident completing the work himself.

NHOOD WATCH – Nothing to report.

GREENER GOSCOTE – Cllr Cannon circulated a report prior to the meeting. This included:

- **The Wildlife Verge** is in winter maintenance mode. Management of the verge has been generally successful this year but very demanding on few volunteers and considerations are being given as to how to carry out mowing and raking in an easier way. The initial costs for mowing, scarifier hire and yellow rattle were fully funded by a Shire Grant of £300. Since then, £77 has been spent on plug plants and £68 recently on a seed mix.

- **The Nature Garden** will be winter ready this week.
- **100 Bluebell bulbs** have been planted in The Meadows Garden.
- **The Homes for Hibernators** event was attended by eight people, including Dr O'Brien. Feedback, photos, and thanks have been sent to funders Reaching People/LLRCF.
- **LCC Treescapes replacement trees:** Six Field Maple and six Hazel will be collected from LCC as replacements for some of the QGC losses. These will be planted at the best time.
- **GG Handout.** A small A6 card which explains who we are, what we do and don't do and why is being created to ensure clarity for members of the public.
- **Looking forwards** the main jobs are still planting replacement trees, refurbishing the Recycling Centre A-Board, assembling the Nature Garden Interpretation Board, preparing raised beds for winter, signage generally and the GG Handout.

There were no questions for Cllr Cannon.

CHRISTMAS EVENT FEEDBACK – The Clerk confirmed that a total of 55 applications had been received. The event was excellent with approx. 47 residents attending. Thanks to Cllrs Fazackerley and Harris for leading this project, the Brownie group for helping serve, the Village Hall Chairman for setting up the hall, Cllrs Tate and Cannon, and the Clerk for assisting and tidying up at the end of the day. Photographs will be included in the Long Furrow. Following comments on the day, it was agreed to include dietary requirements on the application ticket for next year.

The library has confirmed that the Santa event went well and that 61 children attended. Thank you to the library volunteers for putting on this event.

23/166

Proposed Accounts

The Council accepted accounts to the sum of £6614.69 for December. The bank reconciliation and relevant statements were checked along with the invoices and signed off by Cllr Needham and Cllr Tate.

23/167

Correspondence

A list of correspondence received was issued to all Councillors present:

- Wildlife Verge information.
- PPE clothing equipment ordered for snow warden duties.
- Parish and communities' update/consultation.
- Cara Baker re lease on football pitches – arranging a meeting.
- Police and Crime Commissioner inaugural event – 15th January at Police HQ Enderby – Cllr Gerrard advised that she was attending in another capacity, and it was requested she provide a report for EGPC.
- Redrow Street Names – Request change of Foxglove Crescent. Bluebell Crescent was proposed as an alternative and the Deputy Clerk will make the request to Redrow, although this may be too late.
- Personnel advice newsletter – powers can be delegated to an officer but not an individual Councillor (including the Chair). It is potentially unlawful for any individual Councillor to act on behalf of the Council or Committee.
- LRALC Subscriptions – new bandings – large increase in costs.
- Letter re reconsideration of leaving tennis court open – it was agreed to respond to the resident informing them that maintenance is required this year and the Council's decision-making process requires 6 months before an item can be revisited for discussion.
- Letter re tree roots lifting the footpath in the alley way between The Meadows and Broome Avenue – this has been reported to LCC and will be monitored.
- LRALC Training Bulletin.

- 23/168 **Planning Matters**
P/23/1931/2 – comments were sent on 23rd November. The ownership certificate for the application has been amended to confirm that they don't currently own the property, although this has no bearing on planning matters. The Clerk informed Cllrs that the Borough Councillors have not called this application in as of today's date, The deadline has been extended until 21st December and it was RESOLVED to resubmit our letter specifying that EGPC objects to the change of use.
- 23/169 **To consider and approve the budget 2024/25**
RESOLVED to approve the 2024/25 budget which amounts to £93,750.

Cllr Gerrard left the meeting at 7.40 p.m.
- 23/170 **To consider and agree the Precept 2024/25**
East Goscote Parish Council give notice that in respect of the financial year commencing on April 1st, 2024, and in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992, it will require the sum of £72,000 to meet the expenses of the parish. The Precept request forms were duly signed.
- 23/171 **Lilac Way – Request to install foul water sewer across land**
We have received communication from a Chartered Surveyor advising that their client has been served notice under s98 of the Water Industry Act to requisition a foul water sewer which affects approximately 12m of council land on Lilac Way. The Clerk has queried this and received provisional comments as follows:
- Excavation works will be as narrow as possible.
 - If trees are removed, replacement ones will be provided in an alternative suitable location.
 - If needing to be removed, the fencing and noticeboard will be replaced, or compensation granted.
- Clarification from the client is being sought, and a formal notice will be issued in due course.
- 23/172 **To consider proposal for solar street lighting (Cllr Tate)**
Cllr Tate's proposal and a report by the Deputy Clerk was issued with the papers. The 3 main points of concern raised were:
- The 4-year lifespan.
 - LCC are responsible for installing and maintaining streetlighting on public highways, and although the proposal relates to a parish owned area, the suggestion of rolling this out to other areas could impact this.
 - Cllr Fazackerley pointed out that if there isn't any evidence of anti-social behaviour in the area, what is the rationale for spending public funds.
- After discussion it was RESOLVED to revisit this at the March meeting, giving Cllrs the opportunity to consider the proposal in more detail.
- 23/173 **To consider the mowing contract renewal 2024**
The Clerk circulated a draft mowing contract. Cllrs Needham, Cannon, and Tate met to discuss this and the wildlife audit recommendations. Cllr Cannon handed out a proposed schedule for 2024. Due to Cllrs not having time to fully consider this, it was agreed this be deferred to January's meeting. The Clerk requested that an additional column be included stating the current schedule for comparison. She also advised all Cllrs look at the areas before the next meeting as this will be an important decision in terms of resident perception.
- 23/174 **To approve the APM agenda for the Long Furrow (Jan 1st deadline)**
The Annual Parish Meeting for 2024 will be held on Monday 8th April at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The agenda was circulated and approved by the Council.

23/175

To discuss the results from the electric car club survey

The Deputy Clerk circulated a report prior to the meeting summarising the responses. Due to the limited responses, it was RESOLVED not to proceed with this. It was agreed to include feedback in the Long Furrow, within the Parish News, stating that as only 4 responses were received the Council will not be taking this any further.

23/176

Maintenance

Nothing to report.

23/177

Items approved for Expenditure

Precept and budget

23/178

Urgent Items by Permission of the Chairman

- The Clerk confirmed that the office is open up to 12.30 p.m. on Thursday 21st December. Normal hours resume on 2nd January 2024.
- The hedge on the playing field was cut on 7th December.
- The school have confirmed that next year the hedge will be cut in April and November, rather than once per year as in previous years.
- Cllr Cannon advised that he has reviewed the Wildlife Audit and will inform Dr O'Brien of the amendments for her to submit the final document. It was agreed to include this on the website with her permission.
- Reviewing the tennis court maintenance and subscriptions to be included on January's agenda.

23/179

Date and time of the next Full Council meeting

Standing order 7a was revoked to allow time to send out the paperwork after the Christmas break. The next meeting will be held on:

Monday 15th January 2024, at 6.30 p.m. – apologies Cllr Needham – Cllr Gerrard may be at the Police meeting in Enderby on this date.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

L Pizer/C Turlington
12.12.23