

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Full Council meeting held on Monday 15th January 2024 at 6.30pm at the East Goscote Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr C Tate (Chair)

Cllr D Cannon

Cllr A Harris

Cllr R Fazackerley

Cllr R Peberdy

Mrs L Pizer (Clerk)

Mrs C Turlington (Deputy Clerk)

Cllr J Poland

1 member of the public

23/180

Co-option of new members – One resident has sent in his co-option questionnaire to be considered. R Peberdy was duly co-opted and signed the declaration of office. The register of interest will be completed within 28 days. The Chair asked that Councillor Training be undertaken within 6 months.

23/181

Matters arising from the Public (Meeting adjourned)

The resident in attendance raised the following:

- He thanked the Council for their assistance in arranging the removal of the abandoned vehicles.
- He requested that Highways be contacted to clear the drains outside the Plough as the path is covered by leaves and debris. The Clerk will report this.
- He queried who is responsible for removing the burnt-out vehicle, clearing the shattered glass around this, and repairing any damage to the road. Cllr Poland will report this to Highways.
- He queried the following in relation to the mowing contract due for discussion:
 - If the look of the village is being altered in some areas, have the residents been consulted.
 - With regard to requesting No Mow May on LCC land, where does this refer to – Cllr Cannon advised that this is the area opposite Broome Avenue.
 - What does relaxing the cut under the tree canopies mean – Cllr Tate clarified that this means leaving the grass a bit longer and lifting the blades to stop the damage to the roots.
 - What does the flower seed mix refer to – Cllr Tate said that this will be considered at a later date.

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

- Consultation on budget – Residents and businesses are being encouraged to give their views on Leicestershire County Council's 'toughest budget'. A consultation was launched on Wednesday 20th December on proposals which include investing £127m more to meet growing demand, mainly in social care, and an extra £113m to cover inflation and the National Living Wage increase. The plan also forecasts a budget gap of £85m by 2028 after planned savings. A three per cent Council Tax increase for core services is planned for next year, generating £11m for front line services. A further £7m will be raised from a two per cent increase in the adult social care precept. The consultation runs until 17 January – complete the survey at: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/budget.

- Extra funding will allow the community orchard scheme to grow – A scheme which gives community groups, parish councils and schools free packs of fruits trees to create new orchards around the county can now bear even more fruit after receiving more than £28,000 in government funding. The Leicestershire County Council-run community orchards programme offers groups the opportunity to apply for the free orchard packs, which contain 10 apple and pear trees, stakes and other equipment needed to establish the orchard. Groups who would like to apply for one of the tree packs should contact the council's Forestry team on forestry@leics.gov.uk. The packs will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

23/182

Matters arising from the Police

An email has been received from PC Harrison advising a change to the way reports are sent, with these being sent the first week of the month showing crimes reported for the previous month. The first report for 2024 will be sent 2nd February for January.

23/183

Apologies for Absence: Cllr L Needham and Cllr S Gerrard

23/184

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

23/185

To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting (11.12)

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

23/186

Matters arising from the minutes

23/157 – All abandoned cars have now been removed.

23/145 – Snow Warden PPE has not yet been received from LCC. Cllr Poland is following this up.

23/152 – The new gate piston has been fitted and both village green gates are working well.

23/164 – Our tree warden has been registered with LCC and has completed the LCC tree warden training course. He will be liaising with the Queniborough team to use the Mergin App in a bid to help build a picture of county's trees.

23/164 – The consultation for waste and recycling ends 24th January – Cllr Cannon encouraged everyone to complete this. A link to the consultation is available on the parish website.

23/167 – A meeting was held with Charnwood, the FA and the football club requesting the lease, to discuss the long-term lease of the football pitches/pavilion – the Clerk said that there was a change from the football team having security of tenure to the Parish Council being offered funding to improve the pitches. However due to the Council also being required to match this with extensive funds, limited progress was made during the meeting. The Clerk will add this to a future agenda should there be an update.

23/178 – The Clerk has written approval from Dr O'Brien for the wildlife audit to be uploaded to our website.

23/187

Reports from Representatives on other Committees

VHMC – Nothing to report since December meeting other than the VHMC are trialling a BINGO afternoon on the last Thursday of the month. The first session is Thursday 25th January at 2pm.

PAV/PLAYING FIELD – December's checks were carried out by the Clerk and Caretaker. January's check will be done by Cllr Harris. New seats have been ordered to replace the

cracked seats on the Rocking horse at the village green. The Clerk informed the council that the pavilion guttering has perished and damaged, with new guttering ordered at a cost of £78.28 plus VAT. The Caretakers will install this w/c 15th January.

LONG FURROW – All articles have been sent to the committee and the final copy has gone to the printers. Cllr Cannon has requested a deadline for delivery to ensure all copies are distributed in a timely manner.

TREES – Cllr Peberdy has attended tree warden induction training and has looked at all the tree surveys on the village. He mentioned that the LCC Tree Warden Co-ordinator would like to come and look at the free LCC trees that East Goscote have been given. He said that there was an offer for a hedge pack which he is happy to plant to fill some gaps in the hedge at the playing field. It was agreed that he apply and plant the hedge plants to fill the gaps as required.

NHOOD WATCH – No report

GREENER GOSCOTE – Cllr Cannon issued a report to all Councillors which included details about the Wildlife Verge winter maintenance, the replacement trees (Field Maples) which will be planted w/c 8th January and the Hazels which have been used as a hedge behind the fence as they do not do well in the open. Cllr Cannon has some mulch for the new trees.

23/188

Proposed Accounts

The Council accepted accounts to the sum of £7008.97 for January. Both the Chair and Vice Chair continue to check the invoices with the account summary.

23/189

Correspondence

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

- 2Communie Parish Websites have folded – this doesn't apply to EGPC.
- LCC budget proposals
- New legislation for voting
- Council tax base confirmation
- Various legal updates and employment law changes including the Clerks contract – to be discussed with the staffing committee.
- LRALC – biodiversity update, with model policy and action plan.
- Flood warden update – The flood warden circulated a draft flood leaflet (based on one issued in Syston) and it was agreed to distribute to those houses within the flood risk area and Long Furrow which Cllr Harris explained has suffered from a blocked drain. Approximately 100 will be delivered by the flood warden and resilience co-ordinator.
- Speedwatch – details of the 2024 scheme were circulated – as a minimum of 12 volunteers would be required it was agreed to not proceed with this at this time.
- Resident letter re hedges/various recommendations – The Chair asked all councillors for comments. The Clerk said that some of the items were for the staffing committee to consider. Cllr Cannon thought the letter was thoughtful, however many of the items raised are in progress. He will draft a response advising of this for the Clerk, Chair and Vice Chair to review and the Clerk to send.

- 23/190 **Planning Matters**
P/23/2367/2 – Single Storey rear extension to 1 Greensward, East Goscote – no objections.
- 23/191 **Review of Councillor maintenance, playground, and pavilion checks**
Councillor Maintenance responsibilities were agreed along with the playground checks for 2024. The Clerk requested that all Councillors complete the maintenance sheet for their area during January.
- 23/192 **Review of committee/working party membership**
Committee/working parties were agreed until our AGM in May. The new list will be circulated to all Councillors.
- 23/193 **To consider and approve the final version of the Wildlife Audit**
RESOLVED to approve the Wildlife Audit (Jan 24 version) by Dr O’Brien. This will be placed on a new webpage, “Biodiversity in East Goscote,” which the office staff are working on.
- 23/194 **To consider the mowing contract 2024**
Cllr Cannon circulated details of the current mowing contract, his proposals following the Wildlife Audit and reasons for and against the changes.
The following was RESOLVED:
- Trial areas will have reduced mowing at Lilac Way and the Meadows, for 7 cuts per year. It was agreed that a letter be sent to residents adjacent to those areas to explain the new mowing regime, with signage being installed in the areas to inform all those using the space. Cllr Cannon will draft these.
 - It was proposed to ask the contractor to lift the blades for the cuts underneath the tree canopies in all areas. If this isn’t possible then the cut distance from the trunk will be increased. The same request will be made to LCC for their land, including area 7 (Village Hall Green).
 - The Mound mowing details will be made after the CBC survey has been received although we will ask our contractor to mow as high as possible around the sides 15 times per year.
- Cllr Cannon noted that the trial areas could be planted with wildflower seeds, and the Chair asked for a separate proposal to do this.
The Clerk will aim to present 3 quotes for the next meeting for the mowing contract.
- 23/195 **Scout Lease - to consider the draft lease and comment**
The Clerk circulated the draft lease for any comments. The lease for the land at the rear of the scout hut and the installation of a fence will run until 28th October 2042 in accordance with the previous leases for the land that the Scout Hut sits on. Queries from our solicitor include the annual rent required, and it was RESOLVED a charge of £52 per year would be implemented.
- 23/196 **Tennis Court**
- a) Review of membership and charges – The Deputy Clerk issued details of income to date and current membership numbers including current active users. RESOLVED to amend this to an annual cost of £10 resident rate / £15 non-resident rate per membership.
 - b) To consider the cleaning and re-lining of the court – The court was installed in 2015 and to date has been maintained in house. The Clerk issued options and costings for cleaning the court as recommended by the installer; and this was discussed along with options for us do

this ourselves. RESOLVED that this be completed professionally. Cllr Fazackerley proposed cleaning and removing the moss during 2024, with the repainting completed in 2025. The Clerk will obtain further information and quotes, and arrange a site meeting for all Councillors to attend to assess the current state of the court. Cllr Peberdy agreed to ask the factories near to the court if we could use their water supply and pay for the water used.

23/197

Maintenance

None

23/198

Items approved for Expenditure

Guttering

23/199

Urgent Items by Permission of the Chairman

23/200

Date and time of the next Full Council meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday February 12th, 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

L Pizer/C Turlington

16.01.24