

## EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of a Full Council meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 6.30pm at the East Goscote Village Hall.**

Present:

Cllr L Needham (Chair)	Cllr D Cannon
Cllr N Shivers (Part)	Cllr A Harris
Cllr S Gerrard	Cllr R Peberdy
Cllr R Fazackerley	

Cllr O'Neill	2 Members of the Public
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Mrs L Pizer (Clerk)	Mrs C Turlington (Deputy Clerk)
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23/201

#### **Matters arising from the Public (Meeting adjourned)**

Two members raised their concerns regarding the length of time it has taken for their planning application to be processed. Cllr Needham advised that planning is the responsibility of Charnwood Borough Council and although there is not anything the Parish Council can do, herself and Cllr O'Neill will follow this up as Borough Councillors.

23/202

#### **Matters arising from the Police**

A report was received from the police for January, with four crimes reported in January. A speed check was carried out 12<sup>th</sup> February following a request made at the recent beat surgery.

23/203

**Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Poland, Cllr Tate

23/204

**To report any declarations of interest** Cllr Cannon regarding the Long Furrow, Cllr Fazackerley regarding the Village Hall, Cllr Shivers regarding the Village Hall, Cllr Peberdy regarding the agenda items 'to consider the quotes for replacing the safety surfacing under the swing on Jubilee Playing Fields' and 'to consider removal of Lilac Way fence and replacement of existing fence around the play area.'

23/205

#### **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting (15.01)**

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

23/206

#### **Matters arising from the minutes**

23/180 – Cllr Peberdy has completed his Register of Interest, and this is now online.

23/181 – The drains outside the Plough have been cleared but may need doing again, and this will be reported. Cllr Peberdy mentioned the overhanging willow tree outside the Plough and will discuss this with the landlady as Tree Warden.

23/181 – The burnt-out vehicle has now been removed.

23/186 – The snow warden PPE has now been received, and a new coat for the caretaker purchased.

23/187 – The rocking horse seats have arrived and will be fitted.

23/187 – New guttering has been installed on the pavilion.

23/187 – The hedge pack has been requested by Cllr Cannon, who is waiting for a representative from LCC to come and have a look at the trees we currently have. Cllr Peberdy requested he be kept informed about this.

23/189 – The flood warden leaflets have been delivered.

23/189 – A response has been sent to the resident who sent a letter re hedges/various recommendations.

E.G.P.C. 12.02.24

23/193 – The new webpage, Wildlife and Nature in East Goscote, has been set up but still needs populating with full information and will continue to be worked on.

23/194 – Signage and a letter to residents in Lilac Way and The Meadows are still to be completed.

23/194 – We are still waiting for the Mound survey results.

23/196 – Tennis memberships - letters have been sent to all members, with three renewals so far.

23/207

### **County Councillors Report**

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

- Bridging the gap crucial as budget challenges continue – Significant investment to cover growing costs and service demand, wide-ranging savings and a Council Tax increase all feature in an updated budget plan, as councils across the country face unprecedented challenges. Leicestershire County Council's latest proposals, published on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, set out investing £129m more to meet growing demand, mainly in social care, and an extra £113m to cover inflation and the National Living Wage increase. Full details are available in the report.
- Hospital discharge grant to support unpaid carers still available - Unpaid carers supporting someone living in Leicestershire are being urged to check if they qualify for a grant. Carers looking after a person in the county who has recently been discharged from hospital may be eligible through the Leicestershire County Council scheme, funded by the Government's Discharge Funding grant. More than £55,000 of support has already been given to unpaid carers of people in Leicestershire since the scheme began last year. Carers often incur unexpected extra costs, including having to take time off work or paying for cleaning, housework, or short-term sitting services.

Cllrs were asked to contact Cllr Poland with any questions.

23/208

### **Borough Councillors Report**

Cllr Needham said that she has nothing to report, which is not already on the agenda for discussion.

23/209

### **Reports from Representatives on other Committees**

VHMC – A written report was circulated for all Councillors. The committee are still awaiting delivery of defib pads due to a national shortage. The table tennis club continues to grow, and the first bingo event was a resounding success. The committee agreed to store one emergency bag in the hall store and would require one set of door and store keys to be funded by the parish council.

PAV/PLAYING FIELD: Checks for January have been carried out by Cllr Harris. February checks will be carried out by the Clerk and Caretaker towards the end of February. Cllr Harris mentioned that there are some holes around the exercise equipment, and it was agreed that caretaker would investigate this.

LONG FURROW – The Feb edition is out for delivery and is on our website. The accounts have been presented and the current balance is £2,148.41. The £500 donation will be paid as previously agreed.

TREES – Cllr Peberdy is arranging a meeting with the school to discuss the LCC orchard tree packs.

ENVIRONMENT WP – The group met to look at the lawn seeding for area five at the Meadows.

This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting. The group is also looking at the Environment policy and LRALC information.

RESILIENCE WP – A meeting is being arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> February for a tabletop scenario. Cllr Peberdy explained that it has been agreed by the committee that as all the equipment needs to be kept together this will remain in the library. It was RESOLVED that only a kitchen door key is now needed and a budget of £40 was approved by the Council to purchase this.

23/210

**Proposed Accounts**

Accounts to the sum of £4364.27 were approved for payment by the council. Internal audits were carried out by the Chair and Vice Chair.

23/211

**Correspondence.**

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

- Notice of Election – a notice will be posted on 15<sup>th</sup> February, with a Poll Date of 21<sup>st</sup> March – it was RESOLVED to request poll cards in the event an election is called.
- Email from Cllr Tate – delegated powers were given to the Clerk to respond to the points raised with Cllr Tate, after discussion with the Chair. Cllr Cannon requested that his responses were taken into account.
- LRALC Round Robin:
  - The Clerk mentioned that she has registered EGPC's interest in the domain helper service regarding changing to a gov.uk domain, which provides training and the possibility of £100 funding towards this.
  - The Clerk said that there is an LCC Budget Webinar taking place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February should anyone wish to listen in; the Zoom details are included in the email.
- Police and Crime Commissioner Update and Details of Parish Council Surgeries.

23/212

**Planning – Redrow update**

Redrow are awaiting the approval of the housing mix (Reserved matters) from Charnwood Borough Council. Redrow have been bought out by Barratt Homes.

Cllr Needham also mentioned that she has received no further update regarding the change of use at Polyantha Square.

23/213

**Sale of Jelson owned area including shops and public house**

The Chair confirmed that the auction of the shops and public house was being held on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 12 noon. The Clerk has spoken to the property manager at Jelsons who has advised that the leases are protected and will be passed on to the new Landlords – there is no threat to the current tenants, but the new Landlord is likely to carry out rent reviews when the time comes. She mentioned that although Clover Walk is part of the lot for sale, this is in fact an adopted highway and therefore maintained by the local authority. Cllr Needham said that she has spoken with Charnwood and although they cannot prejudge what may happen, there are policies in the development plan that seek to protect existing community facilities from loss and these amenities are recognised as exceptionally important for East Goscote and the surrounding villages.

- a) Consider nominating assets of community value – the Chair explained that this means should the area come up for sale again, the Council will be notified and allowed time to look into the possibility of a community bid. It was RESOLVED to apply for the area in its entirety in the first instance, reviewing, as necessary. Delegated powers were given to the Clerk to investigate further and complete the form. She requested that all Councillors provide their reasons for applying, so that this can be included in the application.

23/214

**Co-option of New Member**

Standing Order 7(e) invoked (Order change to agenda)

One resident has sent in his co-option questionnaire to be considered. N Shivers was duly co-opted and signed the declaration of office. The register of interest will be completed within 28 days.

23/215

**To award the mowing contract 2024**

The Clerk has received two quotes for the mowing contract and advised the Council of these. It was RESOLVED to proceed with Roma Landscapes Limited. The Clerk was given delegated powers to arrange cuts to the side and top of the mound as required.

23/216

**Budget (Expenditure update)**

The Clerk issued all Councillors with an update on the latest expenditure and approximate spends for February and March. Variances were discussed along with the agreement to vire some of the unspent budgets into those which had a shortfall.

23/217

**Reaching people expenditure update and funds available.**

The Clerk issued details of spending to date and highlighted projects which have not yet used their funding. Cllr Cannon has obtained approval from the Reaching People group to use funds for seeds and to cover the costs of a UK priority habitat application, as below. The installation of an interpretation board was also discussed in relation to this with input from Dr O'Brien in creating this. Any remaining funds will then be used to further develop the Hedgehog Highway part of the project, and it was proposed that when these are issued, we ask for contact details and request that photos are sent as feedback. The third guided walk was also considered, and Cllr Cannon will liaise with Dr O'Brien regarding a date and topic, and report back for approval.

It was agreed to use the remaining funds as follows:

Purchase of Seeds	£60.00
UK priority habitat application and interpretation board	£180.00 + up to £240.00
Hedgehog Highway Signage / Templates	Remaining Funds
Third Spring Walk	£125.00

23/218

**To consider designating the dog walk as a Local Wildlife Site**

Dr Helen O'Brien suggested that we designate the "dog Walk" site to a UK priority habitat due to its rarity, species-richness, and plant diversity. This would involve consultation and provisional agreements from Charnwood Borough Council and ourselves.

Dr O'Brien would prepare and submit a citation and schedule for the formal non-statutory Local Wildlife Site and prepare and submit details to Naturespot for designation as a wild place. The total cost is £180.00 and it was RESOLVED to proceed with this out of the Reaching People grant fund – see above.

- 23/219 **To consider the quotes for replacing the safety surfacing under the Swing on Jubilee playing fields**  
Cllr Peberdy left the room.  
The Clerk issued Councillors with options to replace the safety surfacing under the swing including a) Replace the topcoat only, b) 30mm base and 20mm top of wetpour and c) a rubber mulch 50mm.  
RESOLVED to appoint TLB to replace the base and topcoat with Black Fleck wetpour at a cost of £2400. The budget was £2200 but it was agreed to use £200 from contingency or vire from other budget headings.
- 23/220 **To consider removal of Lilac Way fence and replacement of existing fence around the play area.**  
Cllr Peberdy left the room.  
The Clerk informed the Council that the fencing to the Melton Road was leaning and the posts broken. RESOLVED to remove the fencing around the front of the area on Melton Road but leave the back of the area with the fencing to prevent cars parking on it.  
The fencing around the play area on Lilac Way was also weathering. She informed the Council of a quote to replace from a local company and also the costs of materials if we wanted to ask our caretakers to replace the fence. There was also discussion regarding removing the fence and not replacing and leaving in-situ for another 12 months. There was a budget for environmental improvements of £1k. RESOLVED to purchase the materials and ask the caretakers to fit this, with a half round top rail. A maximum budget of £600 was approved for materials, with the addition of labour costs.
- 23/221 **To consider quotes to clean/re-surface the tennis courts**  
The Clerk issued quotes from three suppliers to pressure wash, paint with a binder coat and two coats of anti-slip finish. RESOLVED to appoint Dragon Courts at a cost of £3250 + VAT to complete all works. The Clerk advised that this would be over the agreed budget, but funds can be vired throughout the year, as necessary. It was agreed to consider future maintenance at a later date.
- 23/222 **Review of Hire Charges.**  
For the 24/25 season the Clerk and Football Liaison Reps be given delegated powers to agree the final charges for next season.
- 23/223 **Review of the Tree policy**  
RESOLVED that the Environment Group review this and propose any changes. To be added to the next agenda for approval.
- 23/224 **Maintenance**  
Maintenance checks were received from Cllr Fazackerley and Cllr Tate.
- 23/225 **Items approved for Expenditure**  
Long Furrow Donation, Village Hall Door Key, Mowing Contract, Reaching People Grant Expenditure, Safety Surfacing, Lilac Way Fencing, Tennis Courts

23/226

**Urgent Items by Permission of the Chair**

Cllr Shivers mentioned that the gullies outside the Plough need clearing, and this will be reported. He also said that there has been a fridge fly tipped in the woodland behind the tennis court, and it was mentioned that this has already been reported to Jelson.

23/227

**Date and time of the next Full Council meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Monday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

L Pizer/C Turlington  
13.2.24