

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday, April 8th, 2024.
at 7.30pm at the East Goscote Village Hall

Present: Cllr L Needham (Chair) Cllr D Cannon
Cllr C Tate Cllr R Fazackerley
Cllr A Harris Cllr R Peberdy
Cllr J Poland 2 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 **Apologies for absence** Cllr S Gerrard, Cllr N Shivers

2 **To confirm the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday April 17th, 2023, were accepted.
as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3 **Matters arising from the minutes: None.**

4 **Matters arising from the Police.**

Annual figures were extracted by the Clerk from the website UK Crime Stats which
gave a breakdown of offences for a sample of 5 months.

March 22 - July 22 there were a total of 58 crimes. March 23 – July 23 the crimes
amounted to 61. The Clerk has asked our PCSO how we can obtain annual crime figures
for East Goscote without now having to pay UK crime stats. The Clerk will work on this
for next year.

5 **Chair's Report**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

She had produced a written report included in everyone's papers.

Some of the issues covered were: -

- Council and Staff
- Planning
- The cost of vandalism – this year amounted to £220.
- Dog Fouling
- East Goscote Library
- Neighbourhood Watch
- The Snow Warden Scheme
- The Long Furrow Magazine
- Trees and appointment of new Tree Warden
- Reaching People Fund
- Merchants Common
- The Resilience project and community response plan
- Review of our mowing contract
- The Christmas event.
- Greener Goscote work
- Next year's projects

The Chair paid tribute to our County Councillor, MP Mr Argar, and our PCSO's for all
their hard work. She also thanked the Council staff team for all their hard work this year.
Q. Cllr Cannon asked if we were aware that the library are no longer in profit for the

sale of the dog bags. The Chair confirmed that the report was sent by the Chair of the Library trustees and any questions should be directed to him.

6 **Finance report**

The annual report was issued to everyone present, along with information about the precept. The 2024/25 budget would be £93,750.00 with the precept at £72,000. This equated to a cost of £76.99 for a band D property.

Projects for 2024/25 include refurbishing the tennis court, improving some of the play area surfacing and savings towards a new vehicle and a new pavilion roof.

There were no questions.

7 **Borough Councillors Report**

Cllr Needham issued a written report which included the following topics:

- Land off Melton Road – The development is still at the reserved matters stage and no building works are due to begin soon.
- Other major planning applications nearby – The application on the border with Rearsby was withdrawn.
There are several developments at the application stage which include 3 along Melton Road, 2 in Cossington and Thrussington and 1 off Barkby Road, Syston. Developments that have had approval in the past 12 months include 50 houses in Queniborough and up to 65 houses off Gaddesby Lane, Rearsby. Another two which were approved after the appeal stage include 150 off Melton Road, Queniborough and 195 off Barkby Road, Syston.
- Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37 – Unfortunately, there were more delays to the Local Plan inspection, which was not within Charnwood’s control. The expectation is that the final plan will be presented to CBC in the Autumn. New updates to the NPPF late last year now say that CBC need to demonstrate a 4-year land supply rather than 5. This is positive news for CBC as the land supply is currently 4.49.
- The Budget was approved at Full Council in February with the main points being: -
 - A rise in the Charnwood element of the Council Tax of 3% which equates to £4.21 per year for a Band D property.
CBC receive 7% of the total Council tax bill, the majority going to the County Council and services like the Police and Fire service.
There is no increase in the cost of the Brown bin for this year.
 - Local elections are taking place on May 2nd for the police and Crime commissioner and photo ID will be required.
 - Members Grants – Was awarded to the village hall to pay for the induction loop.

There were no questions.

8 **County Councillors Report**

A written report was issued to everyone with the agenda.

The last 12 months have been another very challenging year financially for Leicestershire County Council. The issue continues to be low central government funding, high service demand and inflation outstripping the County Council’s ability to raise money through Council Tax. Added to that an increase in the National Living Wage announced before Christmas and essentially Leicestershire is left requiring us to do more with less resources available. For that reason, the fairer funding campaign has continued apace, and the Council’s Administration have met with a number of members

of the Government, including a meeting with the Chancellor of the Exchequer at No.11 Downing Street to make the case for local government funding reform.

There has been some good news in government funding for Leicestershire however. In the past year Leicestershire has had committed:

- £1.78m in funding for buses
- £2.25m for road repairs and potholes
- £5m in additional funding (mainly to go towards social care)
- £238m in Network North money towards transport projects in the county (to be spent over a seven-year period from financial year 2025/26)

In the village I have worked on many things alongside the Parish Council and residents. These include:

- Cutting back of hedges on Weavers Wynd
- Road repairs on Long Furrow
- Removal of a burnt-out van on Clover Walk (which also damaged the highway)
- Personal matters for residents (including Council Tax and social care issues)

I would like to finish this year's report by thanking the Parish Council and Village Clerk Liz Pizer for all the work they do for the village. I work very closely with them and see the commitment they show to making East Goscote a great place to live. I would also like to thank Borough Councillor Laurie Needham for the work she does for the village, as well as Ed Argar MP, with whom I work closely for residents.

9

East Goscote Village Hall Update

All members received a copy of the annual report with their agenda.

Details included were:

- A Marketing Grant was received to market our new Table Tennis Club from the Let's get Moving campaign. We have between 6 and 12 residents who join us on a Tuesday morning to play table tennis.
- In Jan 24, the committee held its first Bingo afternoon which was a resounding success. These are held on a monthly basis.
- The village hall took over the maintenance of the flower bed located on the corner of Chestnut Way and Melton Rd. Thanks to Mr Shivers for taking the time to look after this.
- During the year we were sad to hear of the closure of Pocket Rocket Preschool and wish all the staff and children the best for the future.
- During 2023 a total of £15,539.55 was invested in the hall last year which included new flooring.
- For 2024 the hall will have the kitchen redecorated.

Thanks were made to the village hall committee and staff along with all the regular users of the hall whose funding helps us to make all the improvements to the hall.

Matters arising by permission of the Chair.

Approval of the April accounts would be by the Chair/Clerk and Vice Chair, and they would be ratified in May.

All annual reports for 2024 are now featured on our website in the “reports” section and some reports are in the next edition of the Long Furrow.

The AGM will be held on Monday 13th May 2024 at 6.30pm in the Village Hall. There are currently two vacancies.

Q. Cllr Cannon asked Cllr Poland if there was any prospect of increased funding for Leics County Council. Cllr Poland said that historically LCC have been underfunded – it is a complex formula taking into account population and deprivation. He felt that there was little prospect of this changing. He explained that many Councils were facing financial issues, some declaring bankruptcy and in his opinion more councils would be doing this.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

L. Pizer
9th April 2024