

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Full Council meeting held on Monday 11th March 2024 at 6.30pm at the East Goscote Village Hall.

Present:

Cllr L Needham (Chair)

Cllr D Cannon

Cllr N Shivers

Cllr C Tate

Cllr S Gerrard

Cllr R Peberdy

Cllr R Fazackerley

2 members of the Public

Mrs L Pizer (Clerk)

Mrs C Turlington (Deputy Clerk)

- 23/228 **Matters arising from the Public** (Meeting adjourned)
Members of the public asked for an update regarding the Merchants Common shops and flats. The Chair confirmed that we are aware that it has been sold, however, Jelsons have yet to inform us of whom the buyer is. At our last meeting we were informed that the leases for the shops were safe, and the leases would be transferred to the new owner.
- 23/229 **Matters arising from the Police**
There has been no crime reported this month. The PCSO has advised that they conducted speed checks on Long Furrow and Melton Road, finding that most people were sticking to the limits. Cllr Peberdy asked if any speeding fines were issued – the Clerk will find out. The Police said that they will try and get out with the speed gun again this coming month, even if just for intelligence gathering purposes.
- 23/230 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr A Harris and Cllr J Poland
- 23/231 **To report any declarations of interest** Cllr Cannon regarding the Long Furrow and Greener Goscote; Cllr Shivers regarding Village Hall; Cllr Fazackerley regarding Village Hall.
- 23/232 **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meeting (12.02)**
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
- 23/233 **Matters arising from the minutes**
23/187 – The rocking horse seats have been fitted.
23/194 – Signage and letter to residents in Lilac Way and The Meadows is still to be completed.
23/209 – The Caretaker has filled the holes around the exercise equipment.
23/211 – The Clerk has had a meeting with Cllr Tate and addressed the points raised.
23/211 – An initial training session has been arranged for 26th March to find out more about changing to a gov.uk domain.
23/212 – Redrow will be having a meeting with Reps of CBC regarding the approval of the housing mix (Reserved Matters) on 21st March – update next meeting.
23/213 – Sale of Jelson land – a sale has been agreed, although Jelson are unable to give us any further updates at this stage.
23/213 – The form has yet to be completed because after discussion with CBC, the Clerk has informed all Councillors the advice is that 2 tests must be met, and that residential properties would automatically be rejected if it is not an integral part of the business. There is also a requirement to include the current owner, which as above, we don't currently know. **RESOLVED** to add this to the **May agenda** for further discussion.
23/214 – Cllr Shivers has completed his Register of Interest, and this is now online.
23/217 and 23/218 – Dr O'Brien has presented the case for the UK priority habitat application, and this is currently being considered by a panel; an interpretation board is being ordered, with

the artwork to be completed in due course; 40 hedgehog highway signs have been received. At the May meeting we will decide how to distribute the highway signs.

23/219 – The contractor has been appointed to replace the safety surfacing and this will be completed by the end of March.

23/220 – The caretakers will be replacing the fencing over the coming weeks.

23/221 – The contractor has been appointed to clean and repaint the tennis court and this will be completed in two halves. The cleaning as soon as the weather allows and the painting most likely mid-April.

23/226 – The drains have been cleaned around the village

23/226 Fly tipping (2 fridges) in the woodland area (Jelson Owned) have not yet been removed. Clerk to email again.

23/234

County Councillors Report

A report was circulated and taken as read. Points to note included:

- **Government transport cash welcomed** – Extra Government money to boost local transport has been welcomed by Leicestershire County Council. Announced in February, £238 million has been awarded to Leicestershire from the Government's Local Transport Fund which is available over a seven-year period from 2025/26.
- **Help shape plan making services more accessible** – Local people and communities can have their say on a new plan aiming to ensure council services are inclusive, fair, and accessible. Every four years, Leicestershire County Council sets out its approach to promoting equality, celebrating diversity, and tackling discrimination. The consultation is open until Sunday 5th May and can be found here: www.leicestershire.gov.uk/have-your-say
- **Care experienced children and young people given 'protected characteristic' status** – A move has been made to ensure children and young people in Leicestershire who are care experienced face less of a disadvantage in life. Leicestershire County Council has committed to making being 'care experienced' a protected characteristic, following a unanimous vote by councillors.

There were no questions for Cllr Poland.

23/235

Borough Councillors Report

Cllr Needham gave a verbal update, which included:

- Planning – information regarding major applications nearby.
- The NPPF was changed in December regarding land supply calculations. There is a new requirement for local authorities to show a 4 year, rather than a 5-year supply with Charnwood at 4.49. This means that Charnwood are in a better position with regards to the 'tilted balance'.
- The budget has been set with an increase of 3% or £4.21 for a band D property. CBC receive a total of 7% of the total council tax bill, the majority going to the County Council and services like the Police and Fire service.
- No increase in the cost of the brown bin service this year
- A £100k pot is available to support communities with the cost of living and other projects. The member's grant is being replaced with a general community grant and the community facilities pot. Smaller groups are encouraged to apply for the grants which can be up to £750.00.
- Flooding – The County Council is the lead flood authority with the Environment Agency being responsible for the maintenance of rivers. Charnwood are offering more resources in the form of Hydro-snakes, and we have ordered 3 boxes (60). There is a flooding drop-in session next Wednesday 20th March at Syston Community Centre. Charnwood has issued almost £100,000 of government grant funding to homes and businesses through the flood support scheme. There is also a property resilience grant of up to £5,000 to help properties become more resilient to future flooding.

- Cllr Gerrard mentioned that national legislation passed back in 2021 now prevents developers from land banking.

23/236

Reports from Representatives on other Committees

VHMC – The second Bingo event was also very successful with approx. 40 residents attending. Next meeting 26th March 2024.

PAV/PLAYING FIELD – The Clerk and Caretaker carried out the check on 7th March and the caretakers have a list of issues to rectify. The professional inspection is due to take place at the end of April.

LONG FURROW – The copy deadline for the next edition is 1st April. The Annual Reports will be included if available, along with a date for the next guided walk – Cllr Cannon said this will be held on May 25th hopefully and will be titled “walk on the wildside” incorporate a guided walk of all the wild places featured on the Naturespot website. Hedgehog Highway templates could also be offered - further discussion at the May meeting.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH – No report

TREES – a report was circulated and taken as read. Points to note include:

- There is a significant amount of deadfall and potential limbs that could fall into the brook – the Clerk will report this.
- LCC have been busy planting some new trees around the village, these will be watered as necessary by the Tree Warden.
- Still awaiting response from Broomfield School re planting small fruit orchard in their grounds and the pub tenant re trimming/pollarding of Willow outside the pub.
- LCC have pollarded 3 White Poplar trees on the Melton Road, due to the trees interfering with the streetlight on the other side of the road. The trees were also either touching, or about to touch the bus stop.
- The Tree Warden is to attend two LCC run workshops in March: Effective Orchard Planting and Tree Planting in general.
- In conjunction with the Environmental group, the village Tree Policy has been reviewed and provides a basis for the terms of reference for the Tree Warden.

Cllr Shivers and Cllr Peberdy have forwarded photos of trees alongside the brook (Jelson owned) which are in poor condition and need attention. The Clerk will send the pictures to Jelson and ask if they can attend to them.

HIRE CHARGES – the Football Representatives have reviewed the hire charges and agreed that the prices will remain unchanged for next season. It was noted that teams will continue to mark the pitches themselves.

ENVIRONMENT GROUP – a report was circulated and taken as read. Points to note included:

- The LRALC Biodiversity Response was reviewed – The Wildlife Audit was adopted on 15th January and could be regarded as our first consideration of what action to take.
- The Environment/Climate Action Policy was reviewed in relation to the LRALC Biodiversity Response, and it was found to be comprehensive enough at this stage, although further work is needed to consider the government guidance and LRALC response.
- The Meadows Garden (Area 5) Plan – proposals and recommendations include leaving the mowing as it is and seed in the Autumn.

SCOUT LEASE UPDATE – The Clerk informed the Council that the scout’s solicitor has requested that the plan include fencing to the side of the building to incorporate the gas canisters. The head

landlord (Charnwood) has previously approved the fence to leave the rear of the building either side to enclose the storage unit. Should the scouts wish to pursue the change (giving measurements and more detail) we will reconsider in May and have to resend it to Charnwood for their approval.

RESILIENCE GROUP – a report was circulated and taken as read. Points to note include:

- The document has been reviewed and is due to be discussed / approved at this meeting.
- The coordinator will keep abreast of any changes, with the group meeting on an ad-hoc basis and dealing with emergencies dynamically should they arise.
- It was discussed that, (as directed by CC) due to the non-availability of replenishment items for the emergency kit, what we have will be sufficient for the now dwindling duties of the group.
- The coordinator is in possession of a key for VH kitchen, should there be a need for a very short-term shelter due to emergency.

23/237

Proposed Accounts

Accounts to the sum of £9607.02 were approved for payment by the council. Internal audits were carried out by the Vice Chair prior to the meeting and will be signed off by the Chair.

23/238

Correspondence

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

- Letter from Cllr Cannon regarding his intention to resign – he was advised that a formal resignation letter with dates will need to be submitted to the Chair.
- Letter from resident requesting a member of the Parish Council attend the planning meeting on 21st March – **RESOLVED** Cllr Gerrard agreed to attend and will put forward the Parish Council observations.
- Letter from the Scouts requesting access to the playing fields for the Summer Fete on Sunday 9th June – **RESOLVED** this be approved.
- Letter from resident offering to assist Cllr Peberdy in the role of Tree Warden – Cllr Peberdy said that he would prefer to work on his own as he is currently undergoing a lot of training and working towards establishing the terms of reference for the Tree Warden. It was agreed to thank the resident for his interest in the position and offer of help which the tree warden will consider when any larger environmental projects are being undertaken.
- Biodiversity future funding – Rupert Simms of CBC has a copy of the wildlife audit which he will review to ascertain how well their current funds match our opportunities and come back to the Parish Council with possible funding for certain aspects of the report.
- Standing orders – Cllr Cannon suggested alterations to Standing order 9a. The Chair confirmed that the review of standing orders is arranged at the AGM with any changes put to the full council in June.

23/239

Planning Matters

a) To consider the premises licence at 3 Merchants Common – Councillors were informed of the following:

- East Goscote Stores currently has a premises licence for the sale of alcohol until 11.00 p.m. (Monday to Saturday) and the Village Hall's premises licence is between 9.00 a.m. – Midnight.
- Applications must be granted if there are no representations; representations relate to the licencing objectives: Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance, Protection of Children from Harm.
- Charnwood have confirmed that they will apply conditions should the licence be granted which include; a comprehensive CCTV system on the premises (prevention of crime), and till prompts when selling alcohol (Protection of children from harm).

- We are not aware that the opening times of the shop will change from current hours, however the “Morrisons Daily” in Sileby does remain open until 10.00pm.

RESOLVED not to make any representations given that a premises licence with similar conditions is in operation at East Goscote Stores.

- b) P/24/0177/2 Erection of two storey side extension and extension to existing garage at The Mill House, 70 Broome Lane – comments to be received by 15th March – This is a large extension very close to the river in a Flood prone area. Councillors have concerns regarding short term flooding. A second concern is that construction traffic should access the site via the A46 rather than via Broome Lane. **RESOLVED** to ensure these comments are included on the planning portal.
- c) /24/0278/2 – Erection of first floor extension above existing garage and single storey rear extension - comments to be received by 19th March – No objections

23/240

To approve Petty Cash Payments

The Chair confirmed the details of the petty cash book as follows: Cash in £100.00, Cash out £80.06. The balance carried forward is £38.58. **RESOLVED** to approve the petty cash payments.

23/241

To reconsider the mowing contract for Area 5 The Meadows (written notice from 6 Councillors)

After agreeing the mowing contract in January 2023, Councillors wish to reconsider area 5 due to the proposal to plant wildflower seeds and grasses. There are 2 options to consider depending on the agreed planting time, taking into consideration the information from Naturescape:

- a) Spring Planting – do not mow until the end of the season – amend mowing contract to 1, only cutting in September / October.
- b) Autumn Planting – no change to the contract needed for the 2024/5 season.

RESOLVED to plant in the Autumn with no change to the mowing contract.

23/242

To consider planting wildflower seeds and grasses at the Meadows

After taking advice from Naturescape the Clerk circulated a map of the area and information regarding the proposed planting at The Meadows; which highlighted the pros and cons of Spring and Autumn planting. The Clerk confirmed that regardless of when the seeds are planted, they can be purchased now utilising the Reaching People funds, with freshly harvested seeds being delivered at the appropriate time. Cllr Peberdy also proposed not planting at all in this area due to it being very shaded, with the risk therefore being that nothing will grow, he asked if any other areas were suitable. Cllr Cannon said that the type of seed could be N14f which does not include grasses. He said that it was a trial area and funds have been allocated from the grant.

RESOLVED to plant seeds in the area in the Autumn giving time to work on the land. Cllr Cannon is arranging for Greener Goscote volunteers to rake the leaves off this weekend.

At the May meeting we will agree and purchase suitable seeds for the area following more research.

23/243

To consider the Action Plan 2024/5

The Deputy Clerk has created an Action Plan for the forthcoming financial year, including mandatory tasks and projects discussed at the precept meeting; with the aim ‘to provide high quality services and support the needs of the community, while recognising that this is only sustained by ensuring that the resources to do it are available.’ **RESOLVED** to approve the action plan using it as a ‘live’ document with regular reviews.

23/244

Policies

- a) To consider the Grant Awarding Policy and Application Form

- b) To review the Environment / Climate Action Policy
- c) To review the Tree Policy

RESOLVED to approve all policies listed above and upload onto our website.

23/245

To approve the East Goscote Community Response Plan

The Community Response Plan has been updated by the Resilience Working Group. Following a meeting with Resilience Officer for Charnwood, the Deputy Clerk provided an update:

- The Parish Council should own the plan, this alleviates any concerns regarding insurance, door knocking etc. (Therefore, the advice is that the resilience group is a working party of the Parish Council and not an independent group.
- A tabletop exercise / meeting has been arranged for **Monday 20th May 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.** in the Village Hall, where colleagues from LLR Prepared will attend to run through possible scenarios and assess the plan, e.g. flooding, severe weather.

RESOLVED to approve the plan, which will now be uploaded to the LLR Prepared website and reviewed in 12 months' time, unless any changes are needed after the tabletop exercise. Cllr Peberdy asked about the availability of the plan and the Deputy Clerk confirmed that the plan and personal info was available upon application.

23/246

Solar Lighting Proposal (Withdrawn by C. Tate)

At the December 2023 meeting, the Council agreed to review the Solar Lighting proposal in March. Following this Cllr Tate has taken the decision to withdraw the proposal. **RESOLVED** no further action be taken at this time.

23/247

To approve CiLCA Qualification for Deputy Clerk

The Deputy Clerk has completed the CiLCA Portfolio Building training sessions and is now able to register for the qualification, the cost of which is £450. **RESOLVED** to approve registration for the qualification for the April intake, utilising funds from the training budget for 2024/5.

23/248

Maintenance

None

23/249

Items approved for Expenditure

CiLCA Qualification - £450 (2024/5)

23/250

Urgent Items by Permission of the Chairman

None

23/251

Staffing Committee Report – Standing Order 3v applies.

The Staffing Committee met on 27th February 2024. The staff salaries and pensions were reviewed, and the Clerk has been issued with a new contract. 6-month informal employee / staff discussions will be held at the end of May by Cllr Tate and Cllr Harris. The staffing committee agreed to research what biodiversity training is available for staff and councillors.

23/252

Date and time of the next Meeting:

The next meeting is the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 8th April at 7.30 p.m. Reports to please be with the office by Thursday 28th March. Cllr Gerrard gave her apologies for the April meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.