

EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 20th May 2024 at 6.15pm in the Village Hall.

- Present: Cllr L Needham Cllr R Fazackerley
Cllr A Harris Cllr R Peberdy
Cllr N Shivers
- Mrs L Pizer (Clerk) Mrs C Turlington (Deputy Clerk)
- 24/001 **Election of Chair (Self Nomination Cllr Needham)**
Cllr Needham was elected as Chair and signed the declaration of office.
- 24/002 **Election of Vice Chair**
There were no nominations for Vice Chair. **RESOLVED** to elect a chair at any meeting Cllr Needham cannot attend and appoint a Councillor to undertake the internal verification of payments alongside Cllr Needham.
- 24/003 **Declarations of Acceptance of Office**
The Proper Officer signed the declaration of office from the Chair.
- 24/004 **Co-option of any vacancies following the election due to insufficient nominations – none**
RESOLVED to advertise via the Long Furrow, on the website, and Councillors were asked to speak to anyone they think may be interested in joining.
- 24/005 **Declarations of interests/Register of Interest to be checked and updated if necessary.**
Declarations of interest: Cllr Needham re Chair's Allowance, Cllrs Fazackerley and Shivers re Village Hall.
All Councillors were given the link to their register of interests and asked to complete the update form if there are any changes within 28 days.
- 24/006 **Matters arising from the public (Meeting adjourned)**
None.
- 24/007 **Apologies for Absence.**
Cllr Poland wasn't required to attend.
Cllr Gerrard submitted her apologies, and these were accepted.
A resignation letter has been received from Cllr Cannon with effect from May 12th following 6 years of service. Cllr Cannon continues to work hard for our village being the Chair of Greener Goscote. A resignation letter was also received from Cllr Tate who has worked on behalf of our village since July 2020. Gifts will in issued in line with the current policy. Thank you cards were signed by the Councillors present.
It was noted that the Clerk suggested that we need to review our current agreements with Greener Goscote in the near future and create new agreements for those areas which are managed by the group and do not have signed agreements in place.

- 24/008 **To confirm the minutes of the last meeting (March 11th, 2024)**
The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
- 24/009 **Matters arising from the Minutes (March 2024 and APM April 24)**
23/228 – The new owner of Merchants Common has met with the residents and business owners. As far as we are aware they have no plans to do anything different with the area.
23/229 – PCSO Harrison confirmed that no fines were issued when speed checks were conducted.
23/194 – Letters and signs have been issued to residents adjacent to the trial mowing areas.
23/212 – Redrow have submitted the application and have not changed the housing mix. The application will be determined on the basis as submitted.
23/217 – The interpretation board has been received and will be installed in due course. A budget of £80 was approved using funds from the Reaching People Environment grant for posts and concrete. Several areas were suggested but will be checked for suitability.
23/219 – The Swing safety surfacing was completed on 01.04.24
23/221 – The tennis court was painted on 29th April 24 and re-opened on Friday 3rd May for bookings. There have been queries re occasional use for visitors and memberships for children for consideration at our next meeting.
23/226 – Fly-tipped fridges on Jelson land – Jelson have advised these were removed early to mid-April.
23/236 – Brook trees needing attention was reported to Jelsons on 04.04.24 – the Tree Warden and Flood Warden will check whether this has been completed.
23/238 – No feedback or funding opportunities offered as yet by Charnwood (Rupert Simms) following the wildlife audit.
23/239 – The premises licence was granted for the “Morrisons Daily” store.
23/239 – The planning application for the Mill House on Broome Lane is currently invalid. There are conservation objections and a bat survey required.
No Matters from the April minutes
- 24/010 **Reports from Reps on other Committees**
VHMC – A report was issued with the agenda.
- There are now regular yoga sessions in the hall.
 - Occasional use is going well.
 - Table tennis and bingo continue to be well supported.
 - A marketing grant was received, and the hall was advertised in the Pink Pages magazine going to 10,000 homes with leaflets going to 2,500 homes.
 - Hire charges were reviewed and unchanged.
 - The kitchen will be redecorated during 2024.
 - A flag to commemorate D Day will be displayed on the front of the hall – Cllr Peberdy offered to assist installing this.
 - A weekly day centre will be held from w/c 3rd June.
 - The AGM will be held in June, with a date still to be arranged.
- LONG FURROW** – The May edition is now online and has been delivered to all residents and businesses.
- TREE WARDEN UPDATE** – A report was sent to Councillors.
- Our tree warden attended two training courses run by LCC.

- 6 Fruit trees were planted at Broomfield School and the raised vegetable bed will be refreshed. The school have been very supportive.
- LCC have been planting new trees – a further 5 trees have been planted on the Headland and 3 trees have been planted on Ploughmans Lea. We have had more than our agreed allocation of 9 trees this year from LCC.
- It was noted that 2 trees on Weavers Wynd require the canopies lifting.

CHRISTMAS – RESOLVED to book the singer for the event which was agreed to be held on December 14th at a cost of £150.00. The full budget will be considered at our next meeting.

RESILIENCE GROUP – The RG have agreed that the Flood Snakes (77) should remain in the pavilion until at least the Autumn.
A meeting with representatives from LLR Prepared to review the plan is due to be held on Monday 19th August in the Village Hall.
The Flood Warden has reported a blocked drain on Long Furrow with works completed on 14th May.

SCOUT LEASE – No further updates from our solicitor.

APPOINT LRALC AGM REP – Cllr Harris was appointed as the LRALC AGM Rep.

ENVIRONMENT GROUP – a report was received from Ex-Cllr Cannon. This was noted, and the environment group will review as needed.
The final guided walk will take place on Saturday 25th May, and this has been advertised on social media and will be sent to the school to go out with their weekly update.

HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY SIGNS – A ‘how to’ leaflet has been created to be given out with the signs and the Parish Online Map has been updated to record locations of signs as well as hedgehog sightings.

RESOLVED that a table will be placed outside the pavilion at the scout fete on Sunday 9th June. Cllr Shivers will set up and Cllr Needham will attend.

WILDLIFE VERGE – The Clerk provided information about the scheme and photos of the area. She confirmed that although Greener Goscote have been maintaining the area, the agreement is between LCC and EGPC. Cllrs Peberdy and Shivers were concerned that the nettle, broad-leaved dock, etc, were creating a dense sward which is swamping the more delicate plants and out-competing them. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Environment Group, with the support of volunteers, hand cut the larger plants to allow the others to grow.

Cllr Shivers suggested the metre strip should be mowed fortnightly.

Cllr Fazackerley proposed having a plan for the future which will be considered.

24/011

Review of reps on committees/working parties

The committees/working parties were agreed as per the attached sheet.

24/012

Review of Maintenance areas and playground checks

The maintenance and playground checks were agreed.

- 24/013 **To agree annual Subs and Donations**
RESOLVED that we subscribe to all the associations/societies listed on the attached sheet.
 Donations with their own budget were agreed as follows:
- **Long Furrow** – Resolved to award £500.
 - **VHMC** – to be added to the next agenda. Dispensation forms will be issued to Cllr Fazackerley and Cllr Shivers before the next meeting.
- 24/014 **Presentation of Deed and Trust Instruments**
 All documents are available for inspection by members in the future.
- 24/015 **Confirmation of Cheque Signatories for 2024/25.**
 The current cheque signatories are L Pizer (our financial officer) and Cllr Needham. The cheque signatories that have been removed are Cllr Tate and Cllr Cannon. **RESOLVED** to add Cllr Shivers as a new signatory.
- 24/016 **Proposed Accounts (April and May)**
 Accounts to the sum of £9086.22 were accepted by the council for May and £4977.26 for April. **RESOLVED** to make all payments via bank transfer.
 The Chair and Cllr Shivers will conduct a thorough internal check of all accounts on a monthly basis.
RESOLVED to approve the following expenditure under the LGA 1972, s.137:
- None
- 24/017 **To approve the Village Hall’s Annual Account and Annual Report**
 The annual accounts were presented to all Councillors.
RESOLVED that the accounts be approved by the Parish Council (custodian trustees). Councillor Needham signed the accounts on behalf of the Council.
- 24/018 **Correspondence**
 A list of correspondence received was issued to all Councillors present.
- County Councillors Report
 - Borough Councillors Report
 - Public transport survey – deadline 13th June – this will be added to the consultation page of the website. Cllr Needham requested positive and negative views be submitted.
 - Non-domestic rate bill for the Pavilion.
 - Precept payment - £36,000.00 received.
 - Annual Parish Liaison Event – Monday 1st July – Deputy Clerk to attend.
 - Guidance on Councillors’ and Chair’s Allowances regarding taxation – any lump sum payment is taxable under PAYE.
 - Handwritten note found in bus shelter was removed.
 - Letter re Lilac Way (request for additional information) – **RESOLVED** to respond advising that the area is cut monthly as part of the agreed mowing schedule, with each cut followed up with strimming of the edges. The decision was taken to trial this area and the Council will continue with this but review at the end of the year.
 - Letter re Lilac Way (query as to whether trees/hedges will be maintained and option to purchase land) – **RESOLVED** to respond advising that the hedges will be cut, but that there isn’t currently any opportunity to purchase the land.

- Letter re tidiness / cleanliness of village – The Clerk said that she has responded and clarified that the areas in question refer to LCC land. A review of dog bins will be included on the next agenda.
- Report of motorbike on Playing Fields – this has been forwarded to the PCSO.
- Letter re work to trees on The Chase – **RESOLVED** that a professional be asked to quote to check the trees for safety concerns.
- Letter re bushes/low hanging branches Lilac way – **RESOLVED** to advise this will be completed.
- Request to reconsider objections to P/23/1931/2 (change of use for Childrens home) – This was approved by CBC and will be changed to a children’s home. This was noted but no response required.

24/019

Planning Matters

P/24/0762/2 – 2 Huntsmans Dale – Erection of replacement single storey rear conservatory – No Objections.

24/020

To review our standing orders

Our Deputy Clerk has put together proposed changes based on feedback from LRALC and suggestions over the course of the year. All Councillors have received the suggestions and reasonings. **RESOLVED** to accept all the proposed changes, with the following decisions agreed:

7d (13) – change text to ‘for information only’

9 – change to ‘a majority of current serving councillors, with a minimum of 4’

28h – remove (proposed by Cllr Peberdy, seconded by Cllr Shivers)

30b – change to ‘a majority of current serving councillors, with a minimum of 4’

The document will be updated and published on our website.

24/021

To review our Financial Regulations

The Deputy Clerk confirmed that new regulations have been published by NALC, and it was agreed that the Clerk/Deputy review these and present an updated version, with amendment notes, to full council in September.

24/022

To approve the Chair/Vice Chair’s Allowance payable for the year commencing May 2024.

The Chair left the meeting and Cllr Peberdy was appointed to preside over this motion.

RESOLVED the budget for 2024/25 be reduced to £400, however it was noted that £395 was claimed last year and as there are resigning Councillors it may be exceeded. Following the briefing note regarding taxation, the Chair will be offered the choice of:

- Continuing with the current payment rates, which will involve being paid through PAYE and being registered with HMRC.
- Claiming expenses on a receipt basis.

The allowance is to be paid upon completion of one years’ service in April 2025, and is not paid monthly, unless the council agrees to pay this in exceptional circumstances.

24/023

To consider the Annual Playground Inspection Report

The Clerk has emailed all Councillors with the full inspection report and risk assessment. It was noted that mainly all play areas are low risk, and the identified actions will be addressed, if possible, by our caretaker. The Clerk mentioned that there are 2 moderate risks noted, these being the run-off on the

slide at Ling Dale and the existing foundations next to the slide on the Mound.

RESOLVED the Clerk obtain a quote to repair the Ling Dale slide and the Mound slide be added to a future agenda after Cllrs have had time to look at this.

a) To consider the removal of the basket swing posts

RESOLVED to remove the posts and recycle these as bollards at Huntsmans Dale and advertise the basket swing for sale. To be added to a future agenda to consider an alternative replacement.

24/024

To Review the Council Insurance Policy.

Our Current insurance policy is with Clear Councils until 30th September 2026 (long term undertaking). A copy of the schedule was sent to all the Councillors. The Clerk said that she did not feel we needed to add anything onto our existing policy and that we were fully covered as the sum insured exceeded the declared value of our assets. The Clerk will obtain clarification on the recycle bin, office equipment and sports pavilion.

24/025

Football issues – To approve the conditions of hire/policies

Councillors were provided with the policies prior to the meeting. The conditions of hire and the policy for Management and Allocation of pitches were discussed with changes highlighted.

Agreed by Full Council

1. Football charges to be paid in August.
2. The Saturday morning training fee to hire the pavilion was agreed at £10 per week.
3. Continue to allow teams to mark their own pitches and provide their own paint and line marker.
4. Pitches will be inspected by our Caretaker each Thursday and teams will be informed if the pitch is unplayable by 2pm each Thursday.
5. Signing on forms to be presented prior to receiving any discount.
6. Failure to return the keys when given notice will result in a £50 fine, to be taken from the deposit.

24/026

To ratify Pitch Allocations 2023/24

The Clerk informed Councillors of pitch requests made for next season.

RESOLVED that the pitches be allocated as per the applications – one senior team and the junior team require one senior pitch, 3 teams on the junior pitch and 1 team on the U7/8 pitch. It was agreed that we would try to advertise the Under 9/10 pitch to other clubs.

Condition 21 – For the junior pitch it was agreed that 3 teams can play this season, as a trial on the proviso that the Council can cancel matches if needed to preserve the pitch. The initial mark would be withdrawn as the club will mark the pitch out accordingly.

Deputy Clerk to clarify the pitch sizes required for the 3 teams.

24/027

To Appoint an Internal Auditor

The LRALC was appointed to carry out the internal audit for the accounts ending March 2024. This is being completed on 23rd May so that the Council can have all the audit information for approval at their June meeting as normal.

RESOLVED for the year ending March 2025 we continue with the LRALC internal audit service.

- 24/028 **To consider the type of seeds to plant at the Meadows in the Autumn**
 RESOLVED to purchase N9F seeds (hedgerow, 100% flowers) with a budget of £90 from the Reaching People Environment funds. It was proposed that as this seed mix is taller, these be planted around the edges.
- 24/029 **Community Assets – to reconsider the nomination.**
 It was noted that the residential area, which includes the shops, cannot be considered, and that each property / area must be applied for separately. The application gives the community a 6-month grace period to consider purchasing. Cllr Needham proposed the Plough, the adjacent car park, and the car park behind the shops.
RESOLVED to register the Plough on the following grounds: it is the only pub in the village, it is at the centre of the village and a meeting place for the community, and it has an upstairs function room for community use. Cllr Needham requested that all Cllrs send any other reasons through to the office.
- 24/030 **Staffing Meeting Update**
RESOLVED: In view of the confidential nature of business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw. (Standing Order 3v.)
 The staffing committee have reviewed the terms of reference, held 6-monthly meetings with members of staff, and agreed to changes of hours for both grounds staff.
- 24/031 **Maintenance**
 Following a discussion at the recent staff meeting, a stillage was recommended as a potential way to safely dispose of burning waste and the Clerk is obtaining further information about this.
- 24/032 **Items Approved for expenditure**
 Subs and Donations
 Internal Auditor
 Proposed Accounts for April and May
 Chair’s Allowance
 Reaching People Environment Fund – interpretation board installation and seeds
- 24/033 **Urgent items by permission of the Chairman**
 Congratulations to our Deputy Clerk who has now completed her CILCA training portfolio with flying colours. She has received the certificate of achievement. The Clerk updated Councillors on recent / forthcoming training sessions:
- Cllrs Peberdy and Shivers undertook Councillor Training on Tuesday 7th May.
 - The Deputy Clerk has completed Planning ‘Nuts and Bolts’ Training on Wednesday 15th May, the presentation slides have been forwarded to all Councillors for their information.
 - The Deputy has also attended website accessibility training on 15th May.
 - A staffing meeting will be called in the near future.

23/034

Date of Next Meeting

To ensure the meetings are quorate it was **RESOLVED** to amend the dates of the next two Full Council meetings as follows (standing order 7a):

- **Wednesday 12th June at 6.30 p.m. in the Council Office.**
Apologies from Cllr Fazackerley
- **Monday 29th July at 6.30 p.m. in the Village Hall.**

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

L. Pizer
21st May 2024