

**Minutes of the virtual meeting of  
EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL  
held online on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**In attendance:** Councillors Conrad Oatey, Chair; Kevin Shaw, Vice-chair; Lynn Forsyth, Lindsey Maggs, Chris Mulligan, Eleanor Robinson, Mel Roper, Liz Taylor, Sara Budzik

The Clerk, Neil Lambert, and Deputy Clerk, Sue Lewis, and 1 member of the public were also present online

20/43      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs Donna Griggs, Lesley Way, Carys Thomas, Len Simmons and Andrew Brown CC – reasons accepted

20/44      **Declaration of interest in items on the agenda** – none

20/45      **Chairman’s announcements**

The Annual Litter Pick has been rescheduled to weekend of 26/27 September so if possible please volunteer

20/46      **To receive reports from outside bodies including County and Borough Councils**

Cllr Oatey reported County Council matters on behalf of A Brown CC

- Discussions are underway regarding possible re-organisation to form a Unitary Council for the whole county. There may also be a counter-proposal for Nottingham City to expand to include Rushcliffe in a new Metropolitan authority
- Highways have objected to the prospect of over 300 lorry movements daily if the Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station site is allowed to incinerate waste
- Primary Heads are to meet soon to hear proposals for the third primary school in East Leake
- Riparian owners alongside Sheep Wash Brook on Brookside are being consulted about proposed dredging to improve water flow

Cllr Shaw reported about Rushcliffe Borough Council, explaining attendance at recent meetings including Scrutiny and Planning, and concern about less income affecting the budget in 2020-21 and beyond.

He also informed that there will not be the usual ceremony for Remembrance Day and changes to Christmas events. RBC are seeking alternatives to plastic poppies in wreaths supplied by Royal British Legion. It was explained that there are special employment opportunities for people to make those wreaths and who need encouragement.

Cllr Oatey reported that initial planning with the Rector of St Marys was making the usual congregation of hundreds of people on-street very unlikely and that an on-line service may be devised instead, with a simple wreath-laying at the Memorial.

20/47      **Minutes of the following meetings were approved as a true record: -**

- Parish Council meeting 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – pages 34-37  
Proposed Cllr Oatey, Seconded Cllr Shaw and agreed by 8 votes in favour and 1 abstention from a councillor who had not been present

There were no matters arising for information only

- Planning Committee , 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020 – pages 38-39  
Proposed Cllr Taylor, Seconded Cllr Mulligan and agreed by 6 votes in favour and 3 abstentions from councillors who had not been present

- Planning Committee, 18<sup>th</sup> August 2020 – pages 40-42  
Proposed Cllr Taylor, Seconded Cllr Oatey and agreed by 6 votes in favour and 3 abstentions from councillors who had not been present

(NB There were no meetings of Management and Amenities in August)

20/48      **To receive verbal reports from Sub-committees, Working Parties, Coordinators and Portfolio holders**

Cllr Taylor reported on liaison with British Gypsum to develop a new footpath, and hoped to hear more soon

20/49 **To approve bill payments, bank transfers, direct debits, cheques and salaries for August 2020 – details circulated, including update today**

Proposed Cllr Oatey, Seconded Cllr Roper and agreed unanimously

20/50 **Play Area – update on consideration of legal action by DWF Solicitors appointed by DAS Insurance under our legal expenses cover**

The Clerk reported that the solicitors had requested agreement from the supplier to jointly appoint an expert to investigate the problem. Although not refused, identifying a suitable independent expert had not yet been agreed.

This further delay was obviously frustrating. Cllr Oatey asserted that we should nevertheless pursue this course of action, but agreed a deadline should be set. It was expected to get the independent expert report by end of September, or consider repairs being undertaken.

Contractors had been approached in advance and therefore a start on repairs would be imminent when agreed

20/51 **Co-option – recruitment of Parish Councillor – and further vacancy**

One application has been received despite various enquiries and information sent out in response to the advert.

We have not yet heard whether an election has been called for in Woodgate Ward, but should this week

As agreed the 4 chairs will need to “meet” applicants and also consider further recruitment advertising

20/52 **Flowers Estate – Play equipment consultation**

The letter to residents was hand delivered to all 150 houses, and a copy had been circulated to Parish Councillors. Over 35 replies have been received so far, ahead of deadline at end of August. It was suggested we encourage the Residents Association to use Social media to chase more replies

A report will go to Amenities Committee in September.

20/53 **Traders Twilight Market September 11<sup>th</sup>**, 3-8pm on Gotham Road recreation field

Cllr Budzik gave a verbal update. So far about 12 stalls are booked from 30 spaces available. More volunteers are requested to help, before, during and after the event

20/54 To report correspondence received – for information only – none

20/55 Questions to Chairman (in accordance with Standing Order 1u) – none

**It was resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of item 20/56 pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted**

**Meeting into private session at 813pm**

**20/56 Confidential Personnel matter**

**The Chairman reported that he had received a letter of resignation from the Clerk, Neil Lambert, who wished to retire.**

All staff have now been informed so it is no longer confidential that the Clerk is retiring.

The provisional leaving date will be end October, but some flexibility can be agreed.

Cllr Oatey asserted that good practice in terms of equal opportunities require an external advert, but that internal applicants may apply

The vacancy will be advertised as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and not include the additional 5 hours for Project Management to develop the new Pavilion at Costock Road

In the first instance the previous recruitment and appointment details will be reviewed by the panel consisting the 4 committee chairs. In 2017 adverts were placed in the Loughborough Echo, Nottingham Evening Post and via the Society of Local Council Clerks. On-line advertising will also be considered

The Person Specification does state both essential and desirable requirements to enable suitable applicants and not generate inappropriate interest

Cllr Oatey hoped to circulate intended recruitment details by 4<sup>th</sup> September to all councillors

**Meeting closed 830pm**

**Date & time of next virtual meetings:**

Management Committee Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 730pm

Amenities Committee Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 730pm

Full Council Meeting Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at 730pm