

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES ON TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2022 AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Cllr Kevin Shaw (Chair), Cllr Donna Griggs, Cllr Lesley Way, Cllr Wendy Thompson, Cllr Lynn Forsyth, Cllr Nick McGowan, Cllr Sara Budzik, Cllr Chris Garbett, Cllr Jason Billin and Cllr Lynne Twigg.

**Also present:** Sue Lewis (Clerk), Ally Moore (Assistant Clerk), Cllr Matt Barney (NCC), Ruth Edwards MP, and 3 members of the public.

**22/032 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Liz Taylor, Cllr Mel Roper, Cllr Eleanor Robinson, and Cllr Carys Thomas – reasons given and accepted.

**22/033 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda**

There were no declarations.

**22/034 Chairman's Announcements**

Chair informed members that the Parish Office will be closed on Monday and Tuesday next week due to the Bank Holiday.

**22/035 To Welcome Ruth Edwards, MP, to the meeting and address members**

The Chair welcomed Ruth Edwards to the meeting and invited her to address the council. Ruth thanked the Chair and informed the council that she would be speaking about three main issues: The reform of the Planning System, East Leake Health Centre, and flooding / sewerage overflows.

**Reform of Planning System**

The levelling up and regeneration bill (the bill which contains the reforms to the planning system) are before parliament at committee stage. The reforms aim to give local communities more control over what is being built and what is where, strengthen local plans by giving them more weight in making decisions in applications, strengthen neighbourhood plans as part of the local plans, and increase accessibility of these plans by allowing Parish Councils to produce priority statements that local authorities will be obliged to take into account. The Infrastructure Levy will be much simpler than current arrangements and will be mandatory / non negotiable and will be based on the final development value of the land which will raise more money than the current system. The aim is also to try and tackle land banking and this will be done through commencement notices and there will be fines for non-compliance. Finally, the reform abolishes duty to cooperate. Ruth has been writing to different villages and communities, and constituencies to get people's views and to highlight what is happening and to give a summary of the bill.

**East Leake Health Centre**

As per her pledge when elected, Ruth has been campaigning for a multipurpose community hub to replace the current health centre in East Leake and work is well underway. Health Minister, Maria Caulfield attended site some time ago. The GPs currently in the practice are interested in owning their section of the building and that is now being explored. Meetings have been taking place with various developers.

### **Flooding and Sewerage Overspills**

Ruth thanked everyone who contributed to the flooding report. Severn Trent have obtained the necessary approvals for the upgrade and the design phase has begun. Severn Trent are currently undertaking surveys of the entire route and starting negotiations with landowners. The Environment Act 2021, which came into force last winter, committed the government to producing and publishing a plan by 1<sup>st</sup> September to tackle storm overflows and discharges.

Ruth opened the floor for questions.

Cllr Lynn Forsyth asked Ruth for an update or timelines in regard to her campaign to remove VAT for defibrillators. Ruth answered that good progress is being made. There is a complex VAT system in place at the moment in that charities which have connections to first aid, or care, can claim back VAT, however other charities, community groups & sports clubs, etc cannot. The treasury has been presented with a number of options, however, due to the Prime Minister's resignations, no further progress can be made until the new team is in place.

Cllr Donna Griggs asked Ruth about mileage rates for community care groups and the fact that these have not been updated since 2010. Drivers are now feeling that the amount paid is not covering the cost. Because of this, East Leake Local Care Community Association is starting to lose drivers, which is detrimental to the service provided. Ruth replied that, as far as she is aware, there is not currently a plan to review the rates, but she will write to the treasury and raise these points and suggest a review.

Regarding solar farms, Ruth believes that farmland should be used for food production. Already fairly strong protections in the National Planning Policy Framework for greenbelt and greenfield land when it comes to solar farms. Grades 1, 2 & 3a mean that solar farms would not be built unless exceptional circumstance. Ruth would prefer to see more houses with solar panels and feels that new houses should be built with solar panels. Both candidates for the next Prime Minister have said that they want to look at the amount of farmland which is being used for solar purposes.

Cllr Jason Billin asked if there was scope in the levelling up movement for retrospective solar panel fitting to large buildings such as distribution centres, etc. Ruth replied that she wasn't sure whether it would go in the levelling up bill or more of a future home standard. She thinks more likely to be future standards as it's more flexible as technologies change.

Cllr Lesley Way asked if Ruth could see any potential in rules being made regarding future buildings including solar panels as she would like to see legislation brought to this effect. Ruth has agreed to go and talk to ministers about this issue after the 5<sup>th</sup> September.

20:08 - Ruth Edwards thanked members for their time and left the meeting.

20:10 – Cllr Matt Barney left the meeting

### **22/036 To Receive Reports from Outside Bodies including County and Borough Councils**

Cllr Lesley Way reported that she attended a Growth & Development Scrutiny Board on 27<sup>th</sup> July regarding conservation areas and the papers are available on the website. There will be a further

meeting in September which she will attend and report back on. Cllr Way asked members to consider whether this is something the Council would be interested in becoming involved in.

**22/037 To Approve as a True Record Minutes of the following meetings**

- **Parish Council Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> July – pages 24-28**

**Proposed:** Cllr Kevin Shaw  
**Agreed unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Donna Griggs

**Any matters arising for information only:** None

- **Planning Committee - 26<sup>th</sup> July pages 29-30**

**Proposed:** Cllr Donna Griggs  
**Agreed unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Chris Garbett

- **Planning Committee 9<sup>th</sup> August – page 31**

**Proposed:** Cllr Donna Griggs  
**Agreed unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Kevin Shaw

- **Personnel and Finance Committee - 9<sup>th</sup> August – pages 32-33**

**Proposed:** Cllr Donna Griggs  
**Agreed unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Kevin Shaw

**22/P&F/24 Review and make recommendation to the Full Council to adopt the following policies:**

**RESOLUTION**

Subject to the suggested alterations, the Training and Development Policy be adopted by Full Council.

**Proposed:** Cllr Donna Griggs  
**Agreed unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Kevin Shaw

**RESOLUTION:**

That the updated Media Relations Policy be adopted by Full Council.

**Proposed:** Cllr Donna Griggs  
**Agreed unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Kevin Shaw

- **Amenities Committee - 16<sup>th</sup> August - pages 34-35**

**Proposed:** Cllr Lynn Forsyth  
**Agreed unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Wendy Thompson

**22/038 To Receive an update on the Health Centre Car Park and discuss next steps.**

Cllr Chris Garnett reported that Severn Trent have agreed that we can refer to the district valuers for valuation and they meet the cost. That will then cover us for any legal liability if we go ahead with the disposal. Severn Trent have come back that they wish to review their proposals before we submit so we are currently waiting for them to do so.

**22/039 To Receive Updates on:**

**Costock Road Pavilion Development**

Cllr Kevin Shaw reported that he attended site on Friday and met with the site manager and the planning department from Rushcliffe Borough Council. Handover is expected to take place at the end of this week. New manager has been appointed and opening ceremony will likely take place mid-late October.

**Proposed Costock Road Car Park**

Cllr Kevin Shaw reported that, after the quotations previously received were more expensive than expected, Jeff Jones has spoken to both developers, and they have agreed that there is scope for modification. He has also spoken to planning department at Rushcliffe Borough Council and the officer indicated that he would not be averse to approving the revised plans. When the revised plans have been approved, we will go back out to tender.

**Climate Change Working Party**

Cllr Jason Billin reported that, at the last meeting, a presentation was given about how households can reduce energy bills. They will be meeting next week and will be discussing greenspace and connectivity of greenspaces around the village. Cllr Kevin Shaw asked the working party to start researching electric tractors for the future for the groundsmen.

**Tour of Britain Working Party**

Clerk and Assistant Clerk reported that the Decoration Workshop which was held in the village hall last week was a great success and lots of bunting was produced which will be displayed on the day. 5 bikes have been painted green and will be displayed in prominent locations in the village centre.

**Gotham Road Play Working Party**

Cllr Lynn Forsyth reported that, they would be looking to recruit new members including members of the public.

**22/040 To Receive Verbal Reports from Sub-committees, Working Parties, Coordinators and Portfolio holders**

There were no reports.

**22/041 To Approve Bill Payments, Bank Transfers, Direct Debits, Cheques and Salaries for August 2022**

The list of bill payments previously circulated was approved.  
Additional items since list was circulated:

BACS:	£875.00	Ladybug Garden Services (installation of gym equipment)
BACS:	£829.98	Mick Dutton & Sons (tractor repair and service)
BACS:	£171.00	Streetwise Environmental (litter bins for Jubilee / carnival)
BACS:	£47.32	Konica Minolta

BACS: £67.50 DM Payroll Services

**Agreed unanimously**

**22/042 To Report Correspondence Received – for information only**

1. Letter received from Rushcliffe Borough Council informing local business that the Tour of Britain will be coming through the village on 8<sup>th</sup> September – **Noted.**
2. Email from NALC offering online Appraisal Skills Course - **Clerk will attend.**
3. Via East Midlands (on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council) - Winter Service 2022/2023 Offers of Assistance to Parish Councils – **Agenda item for next Full Council meeting.**
4. Email from Cllr Lesley Way regarding funding from East Midlands Railway Community Fund – **Clerk to circulate.**

**22/043 Questions to Chairman (in accordance with Standing Order 1u)**

There were no questions.

Meeting closed at 20.41pm