

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE EAST LEAKE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES ON TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026 AT 7.30PM**

**Present:** Cllrs: Eleanor Robinson (Chair), Chris Garbett, Jason Billin, Wendy Thompson, Trevor Lawton, Kevin Shaw, Mel Roper, Donna Griggs, David Davis, Liz Taylor, and Susan Davis.

**Also present:** Sue Lewis (Clerk), Ally Moore (Deputy Clerk), Cllr Stuart Matthews (NCC), and Cllr Carys Thomas (RBC)

**26/040            Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Will Birch, Chris Jennison, Mike Sharpe, Sandra Johnson (ELPC), Cllr Andy Brown (NCC) and Cllr Lesley Way (RBC) – reasons given and accepted.

**26/041            Chair's Announcements**

The Chair welcomed Cllr Trevor Lawton to his first meeting of the Parish Council.

**26/042            Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda**

None

**26/043            To Receive Reports from Outside Bodies including County and Borough Councils**

**Cllr Andy Brown** submitted the following written report which was circulated to all councillors ahead of the meeting:

“On 9th July, I attended the Nottinghamshire County Council Full Council meeting, which was held at Oak House near Linby. I put forward a motion regarding the concessionary bus pass. As of April this year, responsibility for all bus services transferred from Nottinghamshire County Council to the East Midlands Mayor.

My motion requested that the East Midlands Mayor remove the current weekday restrictions on concessionary bus passes, changing the permitted travel time from 9.30am to 11.00pm on Mondays to Fridays to 24-hour usage, as is already the case on Saturdays and Sundays. This would allow elderly people and other eligible users, such as those with disabilities, to travel to medical appointments, voluntary work and other activities. Several areas in England have already removed these travel time restrictions, for example Greater Manchester. Removing the restrictions would also help to reduce traffic. The cost across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire combined is estimated at £400,000 per annum. I am pleased to say that the motion was passed unanimously, with cross-party support. Fingers crossed that Mayor Claire also agrees.

I am continuing to lobby both at Nottinghamshire County Council and through the East Midlands Airport Consultative Committee, as well as the Strategic Stakeholder Group at the East Midlands Mayoral Combined County Authority (EMMCCA), of which I am a member, for more connected bus services in South Rushcliffe, including improved links between villages and services connecting East Midlands Parkway railway station, East Midlands Airport and the Gateway site west of Kegworth.

At the Children and Families Select Committee, of which I am a member, one item on the agenda at our last meeting earlier this month was the sustainability of small schools in Nottinghamshire. Five schools have been identified as being at risk; however, officers were not forthcoming with details of which five. They are, however, being monitored. One reason given for the reduction in pupil numbers was the falling birth rate. We also debated the

implementation of the scrutiny review into foster carer recruitment and retention, as it is becoming increasingly difficult to recruit foster carers.

At Rushcliffe Borough Council's Community Scrutiny Committee last Thursday, which I chair, we considered a request from Nottinghamshire County Council. We recommended to Cabinet that, to help attract new carers in Rushcliffe, all carers should be exempt from paying Council Tax. The cost to Rushcliffe Borough Council would be approximately £27,000 per annum.

As the Nottinghamshire representative on the East Midlands Airport Consultative Committee, I also sit on the Monitoring, Environment, Noise and Tracking (MENT) Committee and am one of four members of the Airport Community Grants Committee. At both the main committee and MENT, we are discussing the UK Airspace Modernisation Strategy. East Midlands Airport forms part of the Manchester Terminal Manoeuvring Area cluster, alongside Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds Bradford Airports, with all four airports now progressing through Stage 3 of the Airspace Change Programme. Stage 3 includes collaborative airspace design, detailed options appraisal, environmental impact assessments covering noise and greenhouse gas emissions, simulation work, and preparation for public consultation across the cluster.

The timetable for the Stage 3 gateway and public consultation remains subject to Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) agreement. All airports within the Manchester cluster are required to progress through the Airspace Change Process together, meaning that no individual airport can move ahead independently. This can seem confusing to most people, but as a former pilot I am able to contribute constructively to these discussions.

We have a meeting of the Airport Community Grants Committee next week, where there is an application from the village hall. At an average meeting, we award around £37,000 to various community groups. The funding comes from aircraft that breach noise and track requirements, a £60,000 contribution from Manchester Airports Group, and the sale of vehicles abandoned in the airport car parks. Strange but true.

Together with Councillor Matthews, we have requested a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the increase in crime across the Leake and Ruddington Division. We shall report back via the Clerk on the outcomes of that meeting.

As a resident of East Leake, I am also looking forward to working on, and helping in any way I can with, the Gateway scheme.

Finally, on Saturday 1st August, starting at 6.00am, I will be attempting a sponsored bus journey on behalf of the Mayor of Rushcliffe, Councillor Richard Butler's chosen charity, Guide Dogs. The aim is to see how far I can travel around England using my concessionary bus pass within 24 hours. As the journey begins on a Saturday, the pass is valid for the full 24-hour period. I will be tracked throughout the challenge and will be uploading photos and updates as I travel. The live tracking map will be available on the Rushcliffe Borough Council website. Anyone wishing to support or sponsor me can visit the "Mayor of Rushcliffe JustGiving" page. A link can also be found on the Rushcliffe Borough Council website."

#### **Cllr Stuart Matthews:**

Regarding the recent Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) announcement confirming that East Leake will form part of the new unitary authority based around Nottingham City Council. He expressed disappointment with the decision and noted that a judicial review is expected.

Cllr Trevor Lawton asked what would happen to County Hall. Cllr Matthews replied that, if it falls within the Nottingham City boundary, ownership would transfer to the new Nottingham

City unitary authority, although whether it would remain the authority's headquarters remains to be seen.

The JCB Pothole Pro will be on Cromwell Drive, East Leake, from the 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Cllr Carys Matthews:**

Discussions continue regarding the implementation of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Work is ongoing to manage the impact of staffing changes at Rushcliffe Borough Council.

The hearing has taken place regarding the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan, including housing targets, the Tollerton site, the Ratcliffe-on-Soar site and a range of planning policies. Decisions are expected once Parliament returns from the summer recess.

Work on the new Rushcliffe Local Plan is continuing despite the abolition of Rushcliffe Borough Council, as the Government has directed that all Local Plans should continue to progress.

Meetings have also been held with residents of one of the new housing estates regarding estate management charges, facilitated by the MP's office. Work is now underway to establish a residents' association, and Cllr Thomas commented that she expects to see more residents' associations being formed in future.

**Cllr Jason Billin:**

He had attended meetings of the Growth and Development Scrutiny Board and the Communities Scrutiny Board.

The Communities Scrutiny Group discussed Council Tax relief for foster carers and households where a resident is terminally ill.

**26/044 To Approve as a True Record Minutes of the following meetings: -**

- **Parish Council Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 (pages 18-22)**

**Any matters arising for information only:**

26/034 - The Clerk reported that Severn Trent had agreed to the Parish Council's request for £5,000 in compensation. This payment will cover the Council's time and associated costs incurred up to the end of September.

26/039 - The agenda item regarding management fees requested by Lynne Twigg was withdrawn. Lynne will advise the Council when she wishes the item to be included on a future agenda.

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

**Seconded:** Cllr Mel Roper

- **Planning Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2026 (pages 23-24)**

**Proposed:** Cllr Chris Garbett  
**Agreed unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Liz Taylor

- **Personnel & Finance - 14<sup>th</sup> July 2026 (pages 25-26)**

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

**Seconded:** Cllr Wendy Thompson

- **26/P&F/13 - Review the Whatsapp Use Policy & Adopt**

**RESOLUTION:**

That subject to the amendment (sentence be added under Principles of Use “Please note that WhatsApp is not monitored by staff 24/7 and any work issues should be emailed”) the WhatsApp Policy be accepted by Full Council.

**Proposed:** Cllr Kevin Shaw  
**Agreed Unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Donna Griggs

- **26/P&F/14 - Approve additional expenditure for the replacement of four electronic toilet pan flush systems at the public conveniences**

**RESOLUTION:**

It was agreed to approve payment of £1,766.40, being the builder's cost price. However, the Council requires a corrected invoice, as the invoice received did not match either the agreed amount or the correspondence with the contractor. Subject to receipt of a corrected invoice, the Committee agreed in principle to recommend to Full Council that ELPC approve payment of the original sum quoted.

The Clerk confirmed we have received a corrected invoice.

**Proposed:** Cllr Kevin Shaw  
**Agreed Unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Wendy Thompson

- **Planning Committee - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026 (pages 27-28)**

**Proposed:** Cllr Chris Garbett  
**Agreed unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Jason Billin

- **Amenities Committee - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026 (pages 29-31)**

**Proposed:** Cllr David Davis  
**Agreed unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Mel Roper

- **26/AME/016 - To Consider Request from Walking & Wellbeing to use the MUGA for family cycle confidence sessions**

**RESOLUTION:**

It was agreed in principle to grant permission for Walking & Wellbeing to use the MUGA for family cycle confidence sessions if no suitable alternative venue is available. However, the group should be advised that the MUGA is a well-used facility, and any sessions would need to be scheduled to minimise disruption to regular users.

**Proposed:** Cllr David Davis  
**Agreed Unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Mel Roper

- **26/AME/018 - To Consider quote for Removal of Graffiti on Skatepark**

**RESOLUTION:**

That the quote for £300 from Streetwise for removal of the graffiti on the skatepark be accepted.

**Proposed:** Cllr David Davis  
**Agreed Unanimously**

**Seconded** Cllr Mel Roper

- **26/AME/022 - To Consider quote for replacement bollards at the entrance to Meadow Park**

**RESOLUTION:**

That we accept the quote in the sum of £1779.72 to replace the bollards. The company are Cookson & Son.

**Proposed:** Cllr David Davis  
**Agreed Unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr Mel Roper

- **26/AME/023 - Update on On-Going Projects / Costock Road Dirt Track**

**RESOLUTION:**

It was agreed if we do not get a reply in the next few days then the Parish Council will go ahead with the dirt track.

The Clerk reported that she had received a reply and it is allowed under permitted development. Working party to form a meeting.

**Proposed:** Cllr Mel Roper  
**Agreed Unanimously**

**Seconded:** Cllr David Davis

- 26/045      To discuss recent social media posts regarding anti-social behaviour within the parish, and consider whether the Parish Council should facilitate a meeting for local residents and relevant agencies**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would facilitate a public meeting at East Leake Village Hall for residents, with representatives from the Police and any other relevant agencies invited to attend. The meeting is provisionally planned for an evening in August, subject to the availability of the Village Hall and invited representatives. The Clerk/Deputy Clerk will arrange the meeting and publicise the event.

- 26/046      To Receive the Desktop Reinstatement Cost Assessment Report**

The report was received and noted by the members, and will now be forwarded onto the insurance company.

- 26/047      To Agree to the Baptist Church Working Party making further enquiries & prepare a draft submission for grants from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and any other grant providers.**

Cllr Chris Garbett reported that the working party had been exploring potential funding opportunities, including the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other grant providers, to support the possible acquisition of the Baptist Church.

Members were advised that no commitment was being sought to purchase the building at this stage. Approval was requested solely to enable the Working Party to make further enquiries, prepare draft funding applications, and gather the information required to assess the viability of the project. This would include working with the History Society to develop a heritage statement and utilising the structural survey, valuation, and other supporting information already obtained.

**RESOLUTION:** That the Baptist Church Working Party be authorised to make further enquiries and prepare draft funding applications to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other suitable grant providers. Any decision on whether to proceed with the purchase of the building will be brought back to the Council for consideration in the future.

**Agreed unanimously**

**26/048 To Review the Action Plan and agree any Actions.**

It was agreed to defer consideration of the Action Plan until Cllr Chris Jennison had returned from holiday, as he had requested a number of amendments. Cllr Donna Griggs requested that an updated version of the Action Plan be circulated to Members prior to the item being reconsidered.

**26/049 To Consider Grant Request from Harmless for immediate localised crisis containment within East Leake**

Following a discussion, it was agreed to grant the request from Harmless for £2000 emergency funding.

**Proposed:** Cllr Chris Garbett  
**Agreed 7 in favour, 4 against**

**Seconded:** Cllr Liz Taylor

**26/050 To Receive Updates on:**

**Health Centre:**  
No update

**ST – Update on Pumping Station:**

Cllr Chris Garbett reported that the District Valuer's Terms of Reference had been received. He had raised a couple of queries, which have now been resolved.

**26/051 To Receive Verbal Reports from Sub-committees, Working Parties, Coordinators and Portfolio holders**

The Clerk reported that she had attended the Patient Participation Group (PPG) meeting, where the ongoing consultation regarding the proposed closure of the Sutton Bonington Surgery was discussed.

Cllr Susan Davis reported that she had attended the *Future of Healthcare in Rushcliffe* meeting, where she learned about social prescribing and noted that a social prescribing hub is held at East Leake Village Hall on the second Friday of each month.

The Clerk reported that representatives had attended the Village Masterplan workshop, where ideas and feedback from participants will be incorporated into the emerging Masterplan. Cllr Donna Griggs added that a professor from Manchester Metropolitan University will also be preparing a Place Audit as part of the project.

**26/052            To Approve Bill Payments, Bank Transfers, Direct Debits, and Salaries for July 2026**

The previously circulated list was approved.

Additional items since list was circulated:

|      |         |                                                      |
|------|---------|------------------------------------------------------|
| BACS | £960.00 | Ladybug Garden Services (groundsman contractor)      |
| BACS | £565.00 | AT2 Tree Survey (tree survey)                        |
| BACS | £70.66  | Rushcliffe Borough Council (additional bin emptying) |
| BACS | £28.79  | Amazon (disposable cloths)                           |
| BACS | £9.71   | Amazon (cleaning product)                            |
| BACS | £29.99  | Amazon (bucket and mop)                              |
| BACS | £17.99  | Amazon (paper 1)                                     |
| BACS | £17.99  | Amazon (paper 2)                                     |
| DD   | £109.00 | Rushcliffe Borough Council (Costock Road CP rates)   |
| BACS | £600.00 | Urban Imprint                                        |

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

**Seconded:** Cllr David Davis

**26/053            To Report Correspondence Received – for information only**

1. Email from the Leisure, Health and Wellbeing Development Officer at Rushcliffe Borough Council regarding the potential provision of a 3G pitch at the Costock Road Playing Fields. The enquiry was forwarded to the Pavilion Committee, who confirmed they did not wish to pursue the proposal due to insufficient field space.
2. Notification that the Rushcliffe Town and Parish Conference will take place on Thursday 15 October 2026 at Rushcliffe Arena. Members wishing to attend were asked to notify the Clerk/Deputy Clerk.

Meeting closed at 8.27pm