EAST GOSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a full Council Meeting held on Monday 15th June 2026 at 6.30 p.m. in the East Goscote Village Hall.

Present:	Cllr A Harris (Vice)	Cllr N Shivers
	Cllr Fazackerley	Cllr J Bolton
	Mrs L Pizer (Clerk)	Cllr Poland

26/047 **Co-option of New Members - None**

26/048 **Matters arising from the Public (Meeting Adjourned)**

26/049 **Apologies for absence:**
It was **RESOLVED** to accept and approve apologies from Cllrs Needham, Cllr R Peberdy and Cllr Tate.

26/050 **To report any declarations of interest:** None

26/051 **To confirm the minutes of the last full council meetings held on 18th May 2026**
The minutes of the meetings held on 18th May were agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceeding.

26/052 **Matters arising from the Minutes**
25/260 – Code of conduct training. Cllrs still to complete, with some having issues accessing the training. Deputy Clerk to resend the link.
26/004 Parking concerns – update from Cllr Poland re Bollards on Fletchers Way – he continues to discuss a solution with LCC officers.
26/008 Sinkage of pathways – Cllr Poland to clarify who is responsible long term if the pathways sink following fibre installations.
26/028 Flooding Document from the Flood wardens – copy to be provided by Cllr Peberdy to the office for the resilience folder.

26/053 **Matters arising from the Police**
The police were absent from the meeting, and it was noted that although no crimes were reported for May 2026, there was a report of ASB but unfortunately no identification has been made.
Issues raised by a Councillor at the recent beat surgery include parking concerns, the use of electric scooters and further 'notes' left in the bus shelter. The PCSO has advised that they will attempt to carry out speed checks during the month. The next beat surgery is scheduled for 22nd July at the library.
One Councillor raised the issue of cars driving in Merchants common next to the shops and parking to visit a resident of Fleury Court. It was suggested that we ask our Borough Councillor to contact Charnwood (Landlords) to ask for a sign to be erected on the Fleury Court wall indicating "No parking – parking available at rear of flats" They could also write to the residents asking that they direct their visitors to the correct parking area. The council were concerned that children run around in this pedestrianised area and are not expecting cars to be driving there.

26/054 **County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Poland emailed all Councillors with a written report prior to the meeting. He hoped that Councillors liked the new format. Topics covered included:

- School term dates consultation – closes on 15th June
- Supporting Children with Special Educational needs -The Council is continuing to expand specialist provision within Leicestershire and increase the number of enhanced resource bases within mainstream schools. The aim is to allow more children to receive appropriate support closer to home whilst reducing reliance on expensive independent placements outside the county.
- Home to school transport pressures - Demand for school transport continues to increase, particularly for pupils with SEND. The County Council is continuing to examine ways of improving efficiency whilst maintaining its statutory responsibilities. This remains one of the largest and fastest-growing areas of transport expenditure.
- Future transport in Leicester -The Council's longer-term transport strategy seeks to improve travel choice through better walking, cycling and public transport opportunities whilst continuing to support economic growth. This work will help inform future investment decisions affecting roads, public transport and active travel infrastructure across Leicestershire.
- Flood Risk Management - Members were advised that following recent flooding events, additional staffing and investment has enabled more flood investigations, drainage studies and community engagement activities to take place. Over 500 residents attended flood engagement events during the last year and there are now approximately 140 trained Flood Wardens operating across Leicestershire. The Council continues to work closely with the Environment Agency, water companies and district councils to reduce flood risk where possible.
- Improving hospital discharge – A report from Healthwatch Leicestershire was considered.

Further updates from Cllr Poland concerned the pipes on Melton Road. LCC have agreed to install fencing around the area. Very few responses were received from companies who owned the pipes. The Clerk asked that a plan of the fencing and area was sent to the Parish Council along with the timescale for installation. Cllr Peberdy has written to the health and Safety Executive, and it was suggested that we ask him to chase up a response.
A concern was raised about the Cycle Path from East Goscote to Syston. The Children will have to pass 6 outlets to get to school and it was felt that more warning signs were required. Also, trees from land adjacent to the cycle path are encroaching on to it and need pruning back. Cllr Poland will raise with Highways.
The Vice Chair thanked him for his attendance.
Cllr Poland left the meeting.

26/055 **Borough Councillor's Report.**

Cllr Needham emailed all Councillors with a written report prior to the meeting. Topics covered included:

- LCC have completed their assessment of the requested pedestrian crossing on Melton Road. Unfortunately, the survey results fell well below the threshold required to justify a crossing at the moment. This can be reviewed again in the future when the developments are completed and usage increased. A Councillor asked Cllr Poland how this has been concluded. Cllr Poland will ask this question.
- Work to begin on the improvements at the Queniborough Crossroads.
- Changes to National Planning policy. Cllr Needham is concerned that the changes could make it more difficult to resist large-scale developments in the countryside.
- Anti-social Behaviour – Cllr Needham requested a review of the services provided

- A decision regarding the Local government review is expected Mid July.
- Leisure centres – Charnwood is appointing a new operator and hopes to ensure that they continue to stay open well into the future.

26/056 **Reports from Reps on other Committees**

VHMC – The Village Hall report was issued with the papers. Updates included:

- VHMC AGM held 4 June 2025; all four trustees re-elected.
- New policies adopted: Financial Reserves, Safeguarding, Conflict of Interest.
- 2025/26 accounts signed off; year-end balance £79,479.24; £13,275 in grants received.
- Projected 2026/27 running costs £12,000; expected income £11,881.22.
- Bookings steady; Align Yoga ended; Rainbows planning September restart.
- Regular VH activities (bingo, table tennis, kurling) ongoing; expansion dependent on volunteers/funding.
- Summer maintenance: repaint toilets, clean solar panels, arrange annual services, purchase 10-rung ladders.
- Next VHMC meeting: Thursday 3rd September.

LONG FURROW – The latest edition is on our website. The deadline for the next edition is 1st July. Included in the next edition will be Parish News, Councillor Vacancies advert, Reporting QR codes and the seed initiative poster.

PAV & PLAYING FIELD – Cllr Shivers undertook playground checks between 1st and 4th June and was accompanied by Cllr Bolton for one of the checks. A new single cradle seat is required for the mound play area.

TREE WARDEN – No Report

TENNIS MEMBER'S UPDATE – The Deputy Clerk provided the latest figures for the number of renewals and income to date. There have been 24 renewals and 7 new members with a total income to date of £349.00.

STORAGE CONTAINER UPDATE – Permissions for the container to be ordered and the funding approved were received on Monday 15th June. The Clerk will order the container at a cost of £2650 delivered and request that funding £2309 be provided as soon as possible. The exact location of the container will be agreed by the Clerk and Cllr Shivers.

26/057 **Proposed Accounts**

RESOLVED that the Accounts for the sum of £6086.22 were accepted by the Council. The bank reconciliation and relevant statements were checked along with the invoices and signed off by the Chair and Cllr Shivers.

RESOLVED to approve the following expenditure under the LGA 1972 s137: None

26/058 **Correspondence**

A list of correspondence received was given out to all Councillors present:

- Butterfly Funerals – request consideration be given to provision for burial or remembrance within East Goscote – Cllr Bolton agreed to visit the business office to discuss the proposal further. It was noted that reduced rates are offered at the Syston and district cemetery and that we have raised the issue of a burial ground to the developers Redrow, but no land was available.
- Resident request to consider relocating a bench situated at the playing fields – It was agreed that the bench could be moved – Clerk to ask the caretakers to undertake the work and purchase post mix to reinstall along the hedge line of the factories.

- Resident complaint regarding an area of LCC that had been cut – after seeking advice from LCC the Clerk has responded to advice that should the resident wish to maintain the area, a licence to cultivate with LCC would be required.
- Resident concern regarding mowing near to the trees – the Clerk has written to the contractor, clarifying the specification to mow around the trees canopy only 2-3 times per year. She has requested some bluebell bulbs for planting this year to replace those that may have been destroyed at the time of mowing.

26/059 **Planning Matters**

P/26/0955/2 – Erection of single storey front extension – No objections unless there are any adverse resident comments, in which case these will be supported.

26/060 **Completion of the Annual Return**

a) Review effectiveness of the Internal Audit

RESOLVED that the comments of the Responsible Financial Officer be noted and the Council, having reviewed the effectiveness of the system of internal audit, approves the current arrangements. The Statement on Internal Control, for the year ending 31st March 2026 was approved and signed by the Council Vice Chair.

b) To consider the internal audit report

The Summary Internal Audit report was sent to all Councillors.
The Report was noted and received.
Recommendations were:

I. Review the use of the standing agenda item 'Urgent items by permission of the Chairman'. Avoid making decisions on unadvertised urgent items involving expenditure or policy changes. This will be replaced from July 26 with “Items for consideration at our next meeting. The Clerk reminded Councillors that any items they wished to have discussed on the agenda can be requested via the agenda proposals forms. Hard copies will be made available.
II. Review and correct the use of Section 137 (S137) powers. Several expenditures were incorrectly recorded under S137. The Clerk should revisit the legal powers available, as S137 should only be used as a power of last resort. A new monthly accounts sheet will be created ensuring that S137 is only used when necessary.
III. Review how Staffing Committee confidential sessions are minuted. Minutes should remain publicly available even when confidential matters are discussed. Noted
IV. Increase the Council's general reserves to cover approximately six months of operating costs. Currently reserves are £44,000. This will be increased.
V. Send the asset register to the insurance company at future policy renewals – this will be actioned.
VI. Ensure the Notice of Public Rights dates are formally approved by Full Council and included on an agenda for approval. Approved June 2026
VII. Review and update the Code of Conduct, which has not been reviewed since its adoption in 2022. A discussion was had with Charnwood’s monitoring officer who advised that Charnwood have made no changes and suggested that we await the new code of conduct being worked on at present.

c) Approval of the Statement of Assurance (Section 1)

RESOLVED that the statement of assurance be approved and was signed by the Council Vice Chair.

d) Approval of the Statement of Accounts (Section 2)
The annual accounts contained in the annual return for the period ending 31st March 2026 were issued to all Councillors. **RESOLVED** to approve and sign Section 2.

e) To approve the Notice of Public Rights Dates
Councillors were in receipt of a copy of the draft notice and checked the dates were correct for the inspection period. **RESOLVED** that this be approved and included on our website and noticeboards.

26/061 **Approval of our Asset Register**
The Clerk issued the asset register listing values along with insurance values, in year additions and disposals.
The Clerk will add the new container to the schedule.

26/062 **Approval of Risk Assessment and Management Policy**
The Clerk provided the council with the risk assessment policy and the comparison report. The new policy included a new section on Cyber Security.
RESOLVED to approve the policy which was signed by the Vice Chair.

26/063 **Review of our Risk Register**
The Clerk issued the risk register which details all items which have any risk, and when they were last reviewed. **RESOLVED** to approve the risk register.

26/064 **Review of Council Policies**
All Councillors received copies of the updated policies and any changes that have been recommended for the **a) Tree policy**, **b) Financial reserves policy c) Code of Conduct**.
RESOLVED to approve the updated policies and all recommendations. With regards to the Code of Conduct this was reviewed, however after discussion with the Charnwood Monitoring Officer, she said that no changes had been made to the 2022 version, and a new version was expected to be issued in due course.

26/065 **Christmas events 2025 – Santa event/Elderly event – to approve the budget**
Santa Event: The library is happy to host the Santa event again, with the proposed date being Friday 11th December. They have requested 70 sticker books to give out. **RESOLVED** to order these in due course. The Clerk will ask the library to provide attendance figures after each event.
Elderly Event: The afternoon tea event was scheduled for Saturday 12th December between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The total budget for the event was costed out at £489.30 (although may be subject to change in the next 6 months if prices increase). **RESOLVED** to continue with the entertainment "Velvet Souls" after discussing with various groups using the hall.
After discussion it was agreed to ask for a voluntary contribution of £3.50 per ticket towards the bingo prizes with any remaining funds being used towards the cost of the event. A raffle will be held, with funds going to a nominated group/charity to be agreed nearer the time. Last year's raffle funds were not used as the group is closing. It was **RESOLVED** to add the funds to this year's benefactor which will be decided at a future meeting.
RESOLVED to approve the costings of £489.30 and the cost of the sticker books.
The Christmas budget of £1000 is for new lights and the installation – quotes will be obtained for a future meeting.

26/066 **Action Plan progress to date**
The Clerk issued all Councillors with an update on the action plan which gave details on the status as Red (work needed), Amber (on track) or Green (completed). Many of our actions were on track or completed, apart from the sports pavilion which needs a new roof and possible refurbishment.

26/067 **Annual Playground Inspections**

A new supplier (Playsource) carried out this years' inspections on 13th May. The reports along with a summary were issued to all Councillors. A total of 8 actions were identified over all the sites, many of which have already been rectified. All three sites were identified as "low" risk. It was noted that the reports were not as comprehensive as previous reports.

26/068 **To review the sites for dog bins**

Background: In October 2025, several village dog waste bins were removed following restrictions imposed by the Council's contractor. At the time, it was anticipated that 7 bins would be removed; in practice, only 5 were removed, leaving a current total of **45 bins** across the village. It was agreed that the position would be reviewed in June 2026.
Response to Removals: The removals prompted limited public reaction. One formal written complaint was received, and comments were made on social media at the time both for and against the removals. No further complaints have been received since the start of 2026, and there is no evidence of dog waste bags being left at former bin locations — a common indicator of unmet need.
Consideration: Dog waste is a known public health hazard. Bags containing pure dog waste present a greater risk than mixed general litter, and this should remain a factor in any decisions about bin provision going forward.
Conclusion: Given the absence of ongoing complaints, the lack of fly-tipped dog waste at removed bin locations, and the continued availability of 45 bins across the village, along with residents' ability to use their own household bin, the current provision appears to be meeting community need satisfactorily. No immediate remedial action is considered necessary at this time.
RESOLVED: That the current level of provision (**45 bins**) be maintained and that the position continues to be monitored, with a further review should complaints or evidence of unmet need arise.

26/069 **To consider investing with the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund**.

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that a higher yield could be achieved if we were to move funds from our TSB investment account into an account which pays a higher rate. The TSB account we currently use stands at 1.48%. A draft investment policy was discussed, and this will be considered at our next meeting. The Clerk discussed three options for investing with the Councillors:

a) CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities) - The LRALC's position was that CCLA are generally considered a safe investment for Parish Councils with lots of other parishes using them in our area. They are a partner for NALC and County Associations and regularly attend sector events.
   The public sector deposit fund is a cash based, AAA rated money market fund with daily dealing and easy access to cash. The fund is low risk and provides a good yield. An initial minimum deposit of £25k is required. The current rate of the PSDF is 3.71%.
b) Redwood Bank – Currently used by the VHMC and Queniborough PC. These offer a 35-day notice account at 3.55% and a 95-day notice account at 3.85%.
c) Unity Trust –Unity Trust offers a 6-month fixed terms at 3.85%.

The Council felt that there was insufficient information about the public sector deposit fund and the risk factor. It was however agreed that it would be sensible to move money from our TSB Business instant access account into a higher interest account.
RESOLVED to complete and sign the relevant application form for the Redwood 35-day notice account and make an opening deposit of £50,000.00 as soon as possible. It was agreed that the RFO will review this on a monthly basis.

26/070 **Maintenance**

a) The flower beds on the playing field driveway are in disrepair. The bottom wooden tiers are failing and the cost to repair both layers on both beds amounts to £110.00. Our Caretaker said that he could install the new beds. The Clerk suggested that the top tier be re-used inside the playing field entrance and filled with soil ready to plant more wildflower seeds in the Autumn. **RESOLVED** to purchase the new wood and compost using the environmental improvements budget (Approx £120) Cllr Shivers will work with the Clerk to agree the location of 2 new seed beds inside the pavilion driveway.

b) The noticeboard on Lilac Way has been removed as the top was completely rotten. Photographs were circulated to Councillors. The cost last year to purchase the materials and pay the labour for the noticeboard to be made was £550-£600. The environmental improvements budget was £750.00 in total and would cover the cost of this. **RESOLVED** to go ahead and replace the Lilac Way noticeboard using the same suppliers as last year.

c) Mowing contract – the Clerk advised the council that due to the length of the grass on the mound she has requested that the contractor carry out a cut at a cost of £350 as per the original quote.

26/071 **Items approved for Expenditure:**

Christmas Events: Sticker Books (Santa) and Elderly Afternoon Tea
Noticeboard, Flower Beds, Storage container, Mound mowing.

26/072 **Urgent items by permission of the Chair (for information only)**

- The Clerk advised that the new website was now live.

Date of next Meeting: **Monday 20th July 2026, at 6.30 p.m.**

It was agreed that the meeting in August will be postponed (summer recess) unless an emergency meeting is required for any reason. Delegated powers given to the Finance Committee to sign August accounts and ratify at September's meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

L Pizer
16th June 2026