

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTSTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 8th DECEMBER 2005 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT: -

Chairman	Mr. A. Collis-Smith
Vice-Chairman & County Councillor	Mr. D. Jennings
Mesdames:	M. Baum, C. James, J. Jennings, J. Weatherstone, K. Yates
Messrs:	D. Ball, A. Billings, T. Blood, A. Clifford, F.E. Duffield, G. Gamble, M. Gillespie, I. Paterson
Mrs. J. Adcock	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. P. Mount	Deputy Clerk to the Council

There were 10 members of the public present.

2005/204. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mr. D. Duffield, Mr. K. Mason and Mr. M. Smith.

2005/205. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

Listed below are Councillors who wished to declare an interest in the following:-

Planning Matters:

Mrs. J. Weatherstone (Planning Blaby District Council)
Mr. F.E. Duffield (Planning Blaby District Council)
Mr. D. Jennings (Planning Blaby District Council, Leicestershire County Council)

Village Hall:

Mr. D. Jennings – Chairman of Committee for Registration of Civil Weddings (L.C.C.)

Matters for the Clerk:

I. Paterson – Active Arts

2005/206. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 10th November 2005 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2005/207. MATTERS ARISING No matters were raised.

2005/208. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES

- Leicestershire County Council – Branch Line Newsletter
- Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan
- Leicestershire County Council – Corporate Strategy
- VISTA News – Newsletter

- Campaign to Protect Rural England – Magazine
- Blaby District Community Profile 2005

Blaby District Council Press Releases

- Investment in Car Parks with improved Standards & Safety
- Domestic Violence Awareness Week – seeks to engage men
- Extra recycling collection for Christmas
- B.D.C. Community Information & Compact Event
- More People, More Active, More Often

2005/209. POLICE MATTERS

Mr. D. Jennings reported that he believed that consultations were taking place with regard to Police Forces in the East Midlands merging. The role of the Police was also under review i.e. non professionals taking over some of the duties now carried out by the Police.

A discussion ensued and great concern was raised about the force being merged and the fact that there seemed to be no public consultation taking place.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that he would be attending a meeting with the Chief Constable and would raise this matter on behalf of the Council. It was also resolved to call a special Parish Council meeting if an announcement, with regards to a merger of Police Forces is made, before the regular monthly meeting.

2005/210. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mr. I. Paterson reported on the following:

Car Parking Strategy – Blaby District Council

This strategy aims to:-

- Enable the Council to improve the management and standard of its car parks
- Bring about the necessary investment
- Take Account of demand
- Reduce costs to local taxpayer

A significant feature of the strategy is the implementation of improved security measures with certain strategically important car parks by increasing boundary security, lighting levels, patrol frequency and improvements to CCTV systems. The car parks will be brought up to the Park Mark Safer Parking scheme standard as established by the Association of Chief Police Officers. To help fund these improvements charges to users are proposed.

The Council wishes to consult fully with residents, car park users, businesses and other interested parties on the details of how the strategy will be implemented. For this purpose a series of surgeries have been arranged for:-

- 13th December 2005 between 2 – 8 pm. Narborough Parish Centre, Desford Road, Narborough
- 21st December 2005 between 2 – 8 pm – Brooks Room, Blaby District Council, Council Offices, Desford Road, Narborough

Information and questionnaires will also be available on the Councils website www.blaby.gov.uk Everyone is invited to come along, see proposals participate in a survey and discuss this strategy with officers present. We look forward to meeting you there.

The contents were noted.

Leicester Park & Ride Consultation

Leicestershire County Council, working in partnership with Leicester City Council is proposing a new park and ride service, designed to improve access into Leicester from the south west of the County. The proposed park and ride car park site will be located close to junction 21 of the M1 motorway and the Fosse Park retail centre, and will be linked by a frequent, non-stop bus service to the City centre. Copies of the public consultation leaflet setting out the proposals in greater detail are enclosed for information.

Park and Ride forms a central part of the provisional Leicestershire Local Transport Plans 2006 – 2011 and is seen as an important measure to help reduce congestion on main commuter roads and to promote sustainable economic regeneration of Leicester city centre. However, before the Local Transport Plans are considered for adoption in March 2006, consultation is being undertaken on the Park and Ride Proposals.

Comments on the proposals to be received by 30th December 2005.

After a discussion the Council wholeheartedly agreed in principle with the proposals and a letter would be forwarded with the Parish Councils comments.

Notice of decisions on planning applications Town and Country Planning Act 1990 from Blaby District Council:

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0509911 PX 6.10.2005	62 Main Street	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0509721 PX 28.9.2005	20 Main Street	- ditto -
0509591 PX 22.9.2005	19 Judith Drive	- ditto -
0509571 PX 22.9.2005	2 Almond Close	- ditto -
0509581 PX 22.9.2005	10 Linden Avenue	- ditto -
0509491 PX 21.9.2005	16 The Woodlands	- ditto -
0509291 PX 20.9.2005	170 Leicester Road	- ditto -

The following planning applications have been received and the following instructions were given to the Clerk thereon:

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0511931 PX	3 Skye Way	Single storey side & rear extension	No observations
0511531 PX	8 Springwell Drive	Two storey side extension	No observations
0511711 PY	20 The Plantation	Single storey rear extension to form conservatory	No observations
Leicestershire County Council	Countesthorpe Community College	Proposed relocation of double mobile classroom	No observations

2005/211. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Mr. D. Ball reported on a meeting held on Monday 5th December 2005:

Leysland play area: The working party recommended that a sea-saw be purchased for the play area. It was resolved to purchase a 'Jolly Gerald' see-saw from Wicksteed Leisure with safety surfacing at a cost of £4693 + vat.

Willoughby Road playing fields: The car park needs to be weed sprayed.

War Memorial: The working party asked the Clerk to obtain three estimates for the transfer to the war memorial from the closed churchyard to the Square Garden.

I. Paterson proposed that the memorial remain in situ seconded by Mrs. J. Weatherstone.

An amendment was made by Mr. D. Jennings seconded by Mr. D. Ball that three quotations are obtained so that an informed discussion can take place with regard to this matter.

The Chairman asked members to vote on the following:

Amendment – When put to the vote the amendment was carried.

Proposal - When put to the vote the proposal lost.

When put to the vote again the amendment was carried as a substantive motion 12 votes for 3 votes against.

2005/212. SALT BIN, LEYSLAND AVENUE – REQUEST FOR REINSTATEMENT

The Clerk read a letter from a resident of Ludlam Close requesting that the grit bin, which was removed at the request of residents, be reinstated as during icy weather the road at the bottom of Leysland Avenue becomes dangerous.

Mr. D. Ball stated that an article had been placed in the Herald asking for resident's comments with regard to the removal of the bin. Several requests were received for the removal of the bin and only one for its retention.

The Chairman asked Mrs. Y. Bennett if she would like to speak upon the matter. Mrs. Bennett re-iterated the contents of the letter.

After a discussion it was decided to review the situation after six months. It was also resolved to ask the Highways Department if they could add this area to their road gritting programme.

2005/213. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Mr. D. Jennings reported on a meeting that he had attended at Brook Court on Monday 14th November with Mrs. J. Adcock, Mrs. M. Wild (Shetland Way), and representatives from Blaby District Council with regard to the cutting back of leylandi trees which form a boundary between Brook Court and Shetland Way.

The trees were originally planted as part of the planning permission for Brook Court to form a barrier and to protect a line of privacy for the residents of Shetland Way.

Residents of the flats had requested that the trees be cut down to 13ft.

At the meeting Mrs. Wild raised her concern as this would not afford her any privacy.

After a heated discussion it was resolved to ask Mr. Kenyon from the Forestry Division at County Hall what he would recommend. After an inspection he recommended that no more than 8ft. be lopped off the trees.

This recommendation was accepted by Blaby District as it also fell within the remit of the planning permission.

2005/214. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Mr. G. Gamble reported that the rear car park lights were now working.

2005/215. PARISH PLAN

Mr. M. Gillespie reported on the following:

Website – Councillors had been invited to inspect the website in the Parish office prior to the meeting. It was felt that a very good start had been made.

Greenwave had quoted a price of £600 for the installation cost and 10 pages. So far 34 pages had been produced. Greenwave have agreed not to charge for the extra pages as the information supplied had been well prepared and prompt.

Booklet – The first draft reading of the booklet had taken place. Hopefully the second draft would be available in the New Year.

Youth meeting – A working party needs to meet in the very near future to formulate plans for the Special meeting to be held in January.

Illustrated Street Map – Mr. I. Paterson stated that he had made enquiries with regard to purchasing 1 map in the first instance (money is available in the budget). It would be A1 in size and produced on a notice board. The CD and copyright will belong to Countesthorpe Parish Council. Mr. Paterson asked the Clerk if she could arrange a meeting with the manufactures in order to obtain a quotation.

2005/216. YOUTH WORK No matters were raised.

2005/217. BUS SERVICES – COUNTESTHORPE TO LEICESTER

A letter of complaint has been received from a resident regarding the poor bus service into Leicester. Apparently the No. 85 bus when late does not come through the village but travels down Hospital Lane. Mr. A. Billings stated that in the evening the bus does a similar thing and avoids the centre of the town leaving passengers stranded. It was also reported that fares had been increased without notification.

It was resolved to write a strong letter to the bus company and ask for an explanation.

2005/218. ROAD JUNCTION WINCHESTER ROAD/COSBY ROAD, LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Following a meeting held with representatives of the Highways Department the following response has been received.

Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS).

As a result of the growing interest in these signs, a report was agreed by members in July 2004 which stated criteria for the use of VAS in the Country area. This report agreed that signs should only be installed where there are significant speed related injury accident problems.

I will now ensure that the Accident Investigation and Prevention Team adds this location to a list of sites that merit further investigation against those criteria. The team will undertake an in depth accident investigation when resources and other work commitments allow. At the present time I am unable to say when that investigation will take place. The sites awaiting investigation are prioritised in order of numbers of accidents per site and the limited funds available must be spent in the locations that produce the best savings in road accidents.

This report was welcomed.

The Clerk reported that she was still waiting for information about the other site meeting held at the Square.

2005/219. TOILETS, CENTRAL STREET

No information has been received as yet from Blaby District Council.

2005/220. DISUSED RAILWAY – COUNTSTHORPE TO HOSPITAL LANE

No information has been received as yet from Blaby District Council.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that he would contact the relevant officers at Blaby District Council to find out why no replies to the last two items have been received.

2005/221. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	7330.33
J. Adcock – Postages	36.76
Glebe Gardens – winter bedding plants/heathers/compost	206.51
ABC Motors – Petrol/oil	101.26
ESPO – Diary, 2x cartridges computer	60.69
Bowers & Freeman – Plaque	29.38
Countesthorpe MOT Test Centre + service & parts	216.99
SLCC – subscription x 2	226.00

2005/222. MATTERS FOR THE CLERK

Active Arts – A request was made to the Parish Council for grant aid towards a ‘Maze’ project for Greenfield Primary School in March 2005. A pledge of £100 had been previously promised. This project has now been completed.

It was resolved to pay £100 under section 137.

Blaby District Council – This year’s carol concert will be held on Wednesday 14th December 2005.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed Clerk of the Council

Dated 2006