

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER 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
Messrs:	D. Ball, A. Billings, D. Duffield, F.E. Duffield, G. Gamble, M. Gillespie, I. Paterson, K. Mason, M. Smith
Mrs. J. Adcock	Clerk to the Council

There were 17 members of the public present.

2005/185. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mr. T. Blood, Mr. A. Clifford, Mrs. K. Yates, Mrs. P.J. Mount, and Deputy Clerk to the Council.

2005/186. 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.)

The Chairman welcomed Sgt. M. Watson to the meeting and asked members if item 7 could be taken next – Police Matters. He added that members of the public present this evening would also like to discuss certain matters with Sgt. Watson. This was resolved.

2005/187. POLICE MATTERS

A resident of the Woodlands stated that at last there were some results being seen with the anti-social behaviour of the youths who congregated around this area. She stated that it was a pity that the Police could not have acted sooner with this matter as she felt it was only after the Council became involved that the matter was taken seriously.

Sgt. Watson replied that there had been a gradual process to arriving at this state but it has taken a long time. Things are improving which is good, and over the last 3 weekends the amount of reported incidents has dropped dramatically. The Police are trying to work with the local shopkeepers with regard to under age drinking and in some circumstances there have been officers waiting around outside of the shops in an effort to deter youngsters entering to purchase alcohol.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that he was very alarmed to hear that the local beat bobby now had to 'look after' Cosby as well as Countesthorpe, Foston and Kilby. He felt that this was nigh on impossible and unfair to the officer. He added that Leicester Forest East had had an alcohol ban in certain areas in the village due to problems – would it be worth Countesthorpe asking for the same?

Sgt. Watson replied that WPC Physik was not acting alone in her duties she did have back-up particularly for any serious problems. There has been a large police presence in the village over the last few week-ends and obviously this will restrict police response to other areas. A ban on alcohol takes an awful long time to process as evidence is required to support these requests. Liaisons have to take place with Blaby District Council before consideration is given.

Evidence shows that Countesthorpe has plenty of good youth activity with several organizations on offer. However, there will always be the element of youths who do not want to participate in organized events etc.

The Chairman stated that he felt that the majority of youths came from the Village. Sgt. Watson agreed with this and stated that if the same name appeared regularly on his list then action was taken.

A resident of Holyrood Drive stated that WPC Physik had been very good over the last few weeks as the residents here also suffered from anti social behaviour. A request had been made for a sign to be erected on the open space stating no ball games. The residents here have been experiencing problems for over 11 years.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that it was not the policy of Leicestershire County Council to erect signs on their land as it was the responsibility of the police as the said area is part of the highway. However, Leicestershire County Council was arranging a planting scheme on this land in the near future.

Residents present from Glebe Drive expressed their concerns over events happening in this area. They stated that they realized that Glebe Drive was an unadopted road but they felt at least they should receive police help when it was required. Youths regularly congregated here on Friday/Saturday evenings drinking. As there were no street lights it was a very dark area, residents were beginning to be afraid to go out during the evenings. Three times the police had been called for and there had been no response whatsoever.

Sgt. Watson stated that he would endeavour to have this area put on the list for officers to visit regularly. He added that if any other parishioners had problems where they lived he would have a word with them after the meeting and take full details.

A resident of the Woodlands asked what power the police had to act with under-age drinkers.

Sgt. Watson replied that they could demand and dispose of the alcohol and could also do this for over 18's if there was seen to be a problem. They also had the power to arrest if the persons concerned were reluctant to give their names and addresses. He added that 95% of the children that had been apprehended because of alcohol related behaviour their parents had been fully supportive of the police action and in certain cases they were unaware of the problems in the first place. They could also arrest someone for assaulting a police officer. Before a prosecution takes place the whole scenario has to be looked at in depth and all different ways of dealing with the matter is considered. If a name crops up a second time the matter is dealt with further.

A resident of the Woodlands stated that he had seen a 13 year old girl lying on the pavement paralytic. He had telephoned the Police but there had been no response whatsoever.

A councillor asked if anything had been logged for last Friday evening in the Square as 2 policemen had been sitting in a car just watching the large groups of youths that had congregated.

Sgt. Watson replied that it is quite a balancing act trying to deal with so many youths but the Police were trying to build up relationships with them by talking with them. He stated that the Police do work closely with the youth workers at Blaby District Council but it was all very complex. He said that he welcomed all residents' comments and he urged everyone to continue to telephone in with feedback. He thanked everyone present this evening and reiterated that he was happy to discuss any matter whatsoever individually.

The Chairman thanked Sgt. Watson for his time and attention this evening.

2005/188. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 13th October 2005 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2005/189. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 19th October 2005 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record subject to the following:

The Clerk stated that Mrs. M. Baum's name had been omitted from the apologies.

Page 5233 the second paragraph should read 'decreased' and not 'increased'.

2005/190. MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk read a letter from Leicestershire County Council, County Highways re alteration of the road layout at Hospital Lane. A more condensed reply would be forwarded in due course.

It was stated at the meeting held on the 19th October 2005 by Mr. P. Clarke that there was plenty of recreational land in Countesthorpe. However, a report had been received some years ago from Leicestershire County Council stating that there was actually a shortage of recreation land in the village. This was at the time that Leicestershire County Council was considering selling off the extra playing fields at Greenfield School. Mr. M. Smith volunteered to obtain a copy of the said report so that it could be forwarded to Mr. P. Clarke for his perusal.

2005/191. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES

- East Midlands Regional Assembly. Review of East Midlands Regional Plan – Options for Change Consultation.
- Policy & Parliamentary Consultation. DEFRA Options for Change Consultation.
- NALC – Policy & Parliamentary Consultation. Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005.
- Blaby District Council – Tenant Participation Compact 2005.
- Environment Agency. FOCUS Newsletter
- Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine
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2005/192. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mr. I. Paterson reported on the following:

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

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0509241 PY 15.9.05	15 Holyrood Drive	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0508811 PY 30.8.05	119 Winchester Road	- ditto -
0508891 PY 1.9.05	Stable block off Peatling Road	- ditto -
0509641 PY 26.9.05	7 Cherrytree Close	- ditto -
0506501 PY 20.6.05	Land rear of 85 Station 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
0510111 VY	Pizza Point 2 The Bank	Variation of condition 2 attached to planning permission 04/0875/1/PX to extend opening hours to 12 noon – 2 pm. & 5 pm. to 11 pm. Monday to Friday, 5pm.-11pm. Saturday & 6 pm. – 10pm. Sunday	The Parish Council would not like these premises to be open any later than the fish & chip shop & the Chinese takeaway (both nearby). *Would you please look into the matter of the bright blue lights that are on every night. It is felt that these are unacceptable.
0509911 PX	Dine India Restaurant, 62 Main Street	Single storey front extension (to include demolition of existing single storey front extension)	Please take into consideration that it is in a conservation area & the signs should be suitable & in-keeping.
0510331 PX	Rose Farm Cottage Leicester Road	Two storey extensions, & alterations & conservatory to dwelling	No observations
051062/1/LX	Lime Cottage, 2 The Drive	Replacement of seven non-original windows	No objections providing consideration is given to it being a listed building

2005/193. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Mr. D. Ball reported that at the meeting held on Monday 7th November 2005 the following was discussed:

The Spinney – A letter has been received from a parishioner who has requested the possibility of cycle barriers being erected in the Spinney as it was quite dangerous for pedestrians walking along the paths as cyclists used this path also. It was resolved to ask County highways to consider this request. A letter would also be forwarded to the parishioner advising him of the action.

Land Registry – A letter has been received from the Land Registry asking for information on land owned by the Parish Council within the Parish.

It was resolved that the Clerk make a list of all land owned by the Parish Council that is **not** registered.

Foston Road Cemetery – A test has been carried out in the cemetery Foston Road by Zurich Insurance to ascertain whether there are any unsafe headstones/graves. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk have visited the Cemetery on several occasions to check the list over and identify the said graves. Photographs have also been taken of each individual grave that needs attention.

After a discussion it was resolved that three quotations be obtained for the work that needs to be carried out. It was further resolved that **no work whatsoever** would be undertaken without prior notice being given to known next of kin.

Traffic, Foston Road – It was resolved that a letter be sent to Glebe Gardens requesting that any future events held there would be advised to the Police and a request be made for traffic cones to be situated along Foston Road and neighbouring roads as it had been quite chaotic on the night of the bonfire and a lot of congestion had been caused.

Anti Social Behaviour – It was resolved that the Clerk write to the Herald and advise it's readers of the amount of money that has been spent in recent weeks due to anti social behaviour e.g. the removal of playground equipment on the Spoilbank, a brand new bench that had been bolted down on Leicester Road has been stolen and during the evening of Halloween a glass pane in the bus shelter in the Square had been smashed.

2005/194. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

A site meeting had been held today with a representative from County Highways to discuss the problems encountered by motorists and pedestrians at the junction of Main Street/Church Street/The Square and Winchester Road/Cosby Road. County Highways will draw up a plan with suggestions to be considered by Countesthorpe Parish Council to hopefully alleviate any such problems.

2005/195. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The Clerk read a letter from a nearby resident requesting that the bench be removed from in front of the Village Hall and barriers be erected at the entrance of the car park due to the on-going problems with youths congregating around the Village Hall during the evenings. A lengthy discussion ensued. It was resolved that when the Village Hall had been first built it was decided that the front car park could be used by any parishioner irrespective of whether they were using the hall or not. If barriers were erected then this would not be possible. A couple of years ago the Management Committee had sought advice from the Crime Prevention Officer and the Police. A written report was received whereby it was stated that they felt it would make no difference whatsoever if the bench

was removed. To this end the Management Committee have always felt that the bench should remain for people using it during the day.

It was resolved that barriers would definitely not be erected and the bench would remain in situ. The Chairman added that extra lighting and CCTV had been purchased and installed on advice of the Police and this had cost a considerable amount of money.

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£
Blaby District Council – Rates	238.00
Countesthorpe Parish Council – VAT quarter ending 30 th Sept. 05	2038.96
ESPO – Diaries/stationery/cleaning materials	41.37
Powergen – Electricity	760.00
BT – Telephone	61.20
Secom – False alarm 9 th October 2005	88.13
ESPO – Gas	2.66
Scottish Courage – Beers	1415.95
Rays supplies – Pop/crisps	79.99
Waverley TBS – Wines/spirits	373.80
Countesthorpe Windows – Repair/replace skylight window	117.00

Salaries for

Bar Manager, Cleaner x 2	579.66
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Tax returns	379.85

Refund of Deposits

O.W.F. – 19.11.05	50.00
Wigston Male Voice Choir – 26.11.05	100.00
W.I. – 3.12.05	50.00
H. Adcock – 3.12.05	150.00
Countesthorpe Judo Club – 4.12.05	50.00
Inner Wheel Club of Oadby – 9.11.05	50.00

2005/196. PARISH PLAN

Mr. M. Gillespie reported that a meeting had been held for Parishioners to air their views on planning and environmental issues. Representatives had been in attendance from Blaby District Council.

Mr. D. Jennings reported that he felt the meeting should not have been arranged as a Parish Council meeting. It was resolved that future meetings would be called a Parish meetings.

This evening Mr. J. Thacker had very kindly taken photographs of Councillors which would ultimately be on the new web-site. As there were 3 councillors who were not present at to-nights meeting the Clerk would arrange a further date to have their

photographs taken. A written profile of no more than 50 words was requested from each councillor in order that this could be placed alongside of each photograph.

It was proposed and resolved that the quotation from Alice Graphics to print the booklet at a cost of £1880 be accepted.

The next meeting of the working party will take place on Wednesday 16th November 2005 at 7.30 pm. Discussions will take place about the Parish meeting to be held on Wednesday 18th January 2006. All members of the Council are welcome to attend this meeting.

2005/197. YOUTH WORK

This item has been covered in the previous item on the agenda.

2005/198. TOILETS – CENTRAL STREET

Following on from the Parish Council Meeting re environmental issues it was resolved that a letter be sent to Mr. J. Wells, Blaby District Council asking for clarification on the future of the toilets in Central Street. A copy of this letter is to be sent to Mrs. Dickinson, Housing and Assets Blaby District Council for her attention.

2005/199. DISUSED RAILWAY CUTTING

It was resolved to invite Mrs. S. Whiles, Chief Executive Blaby District Council to attend a small informal meeting to discuss once again the possibility of providing a walkway along the old disused railway line that runs from Countesthorpe to Hospital Lane.

2005/200. BYE-LAWS – COUNTSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that she had obtained quite a lot of information on bye laws. This follows on from the Parish Council's wish to update the current bye laws and extend them to other areas of the village. It was resolved that in the first instance it would be discussed at a meeting of the Policy and Resources working party.

2005/201. REQUEST BY PARISHIONER FOR SECURITY OFFICERS TO GUARD AGAINST UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOUR WITHIN THE VILLAGE

The Chairman referred to a letter that had been circulated to all members with regard to the open space on Holyrood Drive. A resident had requested security guards to be employed to help combat the problem of anti social behaviour. The resident who was in attendance at the meeting stated that she knew nothing about the letter at all. Therefore the contents were noted.

2005/202. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council Wages	7500.00
J. Adcock – Postages	28.47
Chapman’s - repairs to strimmer/blade/line/plug	80.68
XMA Ltd. – Cartridge for printer	81.08
J. Coles & Sons – 250 hawthorns for Willoughby Road playing fields	88.13
Kalen – Paint for play equipment	33.84
Zurich Municipal Management Services – memorial inspection	2350.00
B. Telecom – Telephone	173.06
ESPO – Fence preserve	61.69
goIt – to resolve Virus on computer	94.00
ABC Motors – petrol/oil	67.70
Countesthorpe Windows – to remove & clear away play equipment & Safety surfacing – Spoilbank	1117.00

2005/203. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

No matters were raised.

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2005