

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 10th AUGUST 2006 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT: -

Chairman & County Councillor D. Jennings

Deputy Chairman M. Smith

Mesdames: J. Jennings

Messrs: D. Ball, A. Billings, T. Blood, A. Clifford, D. Duffield,
M. Gillespie, G. Gamble, K. Mason, I. Paterson,
A. Collis-Smith

Mrs. J. Adcock Clerk to the Council
Mrs. P. Mount Deputy Clerk to the Council

There were 9 members of the public present.

2006/146. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mrs. J. Weatherstone, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Mrs. K. Yates, Mrs. C. James and Mrs. M. Baum.

The Chairman reported that Mr. F.E. Duffield had been unwell and asked the Clerk to send a letter to Mr. Duffield wishing him a speedy recovery.

2006/147. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

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

Planning Matters:

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.)

Youth Work within the Village:

Mr. A. Clifford – Employed by Leics. C.C. in the Youth & Community Education Section

2006/148. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 13th July 2006 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2006/149. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Clerk reported that she had had a request from the Development Worker for the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) forums to attend a Parish Council meeting and give a presentation on the work of the PPI. This has been arranged for the November meeting.

Mr. D. Duffield gave mention to minute 2006/135 and stated that he not Mr. F.E. Duffield asked the Clerk how the part time bar staff was paid. This was noted.

2006/150. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- B.D.C. – Best Value Performance Plan 2005/06
- DEFRA – Community halls for rural people
- Leics. County Council – Leicestershire & Leicester Waste Development Framework and Leicestershire Minerals Development Framework
- Central Networks – Building Better & Safer Environments in your Community
- Leics. Leicester & Rutland Fire Authority – Best Value Performance plan 2006 – 2007
- Leicestershire Constabulary – Newsletter
- Encams – Local environmental quality – A Town & Parish Guide

Blaby District Council Press Release

- Commonwealth medallist to coach @ popular summer sports scheme
- Rural Advice Fair is a First
- Calling all landlords
- Consultation on Blaby District Council Statement of Licensing Policy under the Gambling Act 2005
- Muddy Monsters go green @ Glebe
- Action against Anti Social Behaviour

2006/151. POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman stated that he had once again received complaints from residents of the Woodlands about the unruly behaviour of youths who make their way to the Spoilbank and fields beyond on most evening of the week.

A member of the public was asked to tell the Council the problems he had personally encountered, which were as follows:

Verbal abuse, damage to his car e.g. walking on the roof which had caused it to collapse, rubbish stuffed into the exhaust pipe, missiles thrown at the car, the fence around his property had been almost demolished.

The resident stated that he had telephoned the police on numerous occasions but the perpetrators had not been apprehended.

This matter was discussed and it was resolved that the Council should get in touch with the police to see what could be done and the resident was also advised to write to the Chief Constable personally.

The Clerk stated that information on the Community Reassurance Project as discussed at last months meeting had been circulated to all members of the Parish Council prior to the meeting.

A lengthy discussion ensued whereby it was felt that most of the points in the project had been covered by the Parish Plan but it was argued that all possibilities should be explored. It was therefore decided to ask Margaret Jones and PC Butterworth to attend a meeting with the Parish Plan working party to discuss the matter further. The Rev. M. Gillespie offered to contact Margaret Jones to organise a meeting. The Clerk was asked to contact Narborough Parish Council who had participated in this project to see what they felt about the scheme.

2006/152. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mr. I. Paterson reported on the following:-

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0605391 PX 9.6.06	1a Main Street	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0605161 VY 2.6.06	7 The Square	- ditto -
0604941 PX 30.5.06	4 Waterloo Crescent	- ditto -
0603611 PX 25.4.06	2 Church Street	- ditto -
0604631 PX 19.5.06	3 Waterloo Crescent	- ditto -
0605091 PY 31.5.06	C'thorpe Cricket Club Bassett Avenue	- ditto -

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0606671 PX	9 Almond Close	Erection of extension to side/rear of existing dwelling	No observations
0606541 PX	114 Gwendoline Drive	Single storey front & side extensions	No observations
0606281 PX	22 The Woodlands	Single storey rear extension	No observations

Mr. Paterson gave mention to the refusal of planning permission for the construction of an artificial sports pitch etc. on the Countesthorpe College campus. Mr. Paterson was concerned that two members of the Parish Council had made statements to official committees raising objections to the proposals when the Parish Council had in fact embraced the project.

The concern raised by one councillor was about the proximity of the pitch/lights to neighbouring residential properties and the second councillors concern was about the loss of the existing all weather pitch near to Cosby Road.

The Chairman stated that the planning application had been refused but not the project itself. Therefore an amended planning application could be presented.

Mr. Paterson felt that as the comments/observations made by the Parish Council were not adhered to he felt that he could no longer serve as Chairman to the Planning working party .

Mr. K. Mason raised concerns that no planning application has been received from Leicestershire County Council for the erection of a high fence around Leysland High Schools playing fields.

2006/153. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0505061 PY	The Paddock, Hospital Lane, Blaby	Amended plan: 2 mobile homes, two touring caravans & two parking spaces sited within a fenced area located adjacent to the eastern field boundary. The existing field access closed & a new vehicular access formed about 4 metres to the east of the existing.	The new access onto busy road dangerous. To reiterate objections made on the original planning application. Site visit strongly recommended.

2006/154. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Mr. D. Ball reported on a working party meeting held on Monday 7th August 2006:

Leysland Play area - Wooden fence post has been broken. Work to repair the fence must be carried out as soon as possible.

Willoughby Road Playing Fields Car Park The car park needs to be weed sprayed. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for the car park to be laid with a smaller grade of stone.

St. Andrew's closed churchyard

A quotation of £834.25 has been received for the provision of an exterior electrical supply for Christmas tree lights. It was resolved to accept this quotation subject to permission from the Church being obtained for this work to be carried out.

Hanging Baskets

The following letter has been received from Plantscape in response to a letter sent by the Clerk complaining about the weeds growing in the majority of the hanging baskets:

We are in receipt of your letter of 26th July and are sorry to hear of your problem with weeds in the hanging baskets, and apologise that you have not received a reply.

Only sterile compost is used in the planting of our baskets so we can only assume that the seeds have been carried by the wind and introduced to the baskets at some stage. We understand that the weeds mentioned are a fairly common variety and that their seeds are in fact wind borne. In addition weeds may also be introduced by visits from birds.

Should you be interested in our watering / maintenance service we would be happy to provide you with a quotation.

Please be assured of our best attention at all times.

As only one type of weed the Persicaria is evident it was felt that the soil used in the planters was possibly contaminated therefore the Clerk was asked to write a further letter to this effect.

It was resolved to withhold payment until a reply has been received.

2006/155. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Mr. D. Ball reported that judging for the Best Kept Front Garden had been completed and the following awards had been made:

FIRST PRIZE GARDEN

Mr. & Mrs. D. Jarvis,
19 Beechings Close,
Countesthorpe.

BEST HANGING BASKET/TUB

Mr. & Mrs. M. Coughlin,
45 Bassett Avenue,
Countesthorpe.

SECOND PRIZE GARDEN

Mr. & Mrs. R. Pople,
2 Mull Way
Countesthorpe.

CHAIRMANS CHOICE

Mr. & Mrs. K. Rennocks,
19 The Leys,
Countesthorpe.

THIRD PRIZE GARDEN

Mr. & Mrs. A. Freer,
4 Mull Way
Countesthorpe.

BEST COMMERCIAL/NONE DOMESTIC PROPERTY

Mr. & Mrs. P. Snape,
The Railway Inn
Station Road,
Countesthorpe.

Awards will be presented at the Chairman's Reception on the 29th September 2006.

2006/156. ANNA PULLEN MEMORIAL

A grant of a £100 was made last month to Whetstone Parish Council and the Blaby & Whetstone Boys' Club towards a memorial to Anna Pullen.

Suggestions for Countesthorpe's own memorial to Anna were discussed and it was resolved to ask the Village Hall Management Committee if the lounge could be called the 'Anna Pullen Lounge' and a plaque to that effect be erected. This was resolved.

2006/157. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Mr. G. Gamble reported that at the Village Hall Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 3rd August the following had been decided:

- A quotation has been accepted for the exterior decoration of the Village Hall.
- A projection screen for the hall has been chosen.

2006/158. PARISH PLAN

Rev. M. Gillespie reported that the events calendar is up and running and the filter system is working.

2006/159. YOUTH WORK

Mr. A. Clifford thanked the Parish Council for the financial aid given to the youth group. He reported that members of the group are visiting other 'Youth Cafés' to see how they operate. Tammy Ballard, Youth Worker to the project will be giving a presentation to the Parish Council at the October meeting.

2006/160. TOILETS – CENTRAL STREET – 'IN CAMERA'

The Chairman asked if this item could be taken in camera. This was resolved.

2006/161. LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF GLEBE DRIVE

The Chairman read the following e mail from the Housing Operations Manager at Blaby District Council re the ownership of The Drive:

I can advise you that the land, upon which the caravans are sited, does belong to Blaby District Council. However, the actual driveway does not belong to Blaby District Council. The land was bought from a Mr. Albert Edward Dalby of Peatling House Farm, Countesthorpe on 16th May 1961. Within the sale, the Council does have the right to pass over the driveway for access only.

At some point in 1925, it would appear that Mr. Dalby purchased the land from Fred and Josiah Asher (no address held). It is not clear whether Glebe Drive driveway was part of that transaction.

I would assume that whoever owns Peatling House Farm (if it still exists), also owns Glebe Drive driveway.

This is all the information we hold or have been able to find.

A letter from the Highways Solicitor at Leicestershire County Council confirmed that part of Glebe Drive is adopted. They also stated that they will carry out a search of the Peatling House Farm to see if this throws up any more information.

2006/162. POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWAL OF BUS SERVICE 45

The Clerk read the following letter received on the 7th August from the Assistant Director, Transportation, Leicestershire County Council:-

Bus Service 45

Both the Leader and the Deputy Leader of the County Council have considered the representations made against the removal of this bus service and have a great deal of sympathy with them. Unfortunately, however, restricted government funding leaves the Council in a position where it has no alternative but to make some cuts in services, and the decision was taken in this year's budget to withdraw a number of bus services which lie outside our policies for support. Service 45 is one of these, because it is expensive to subsidise and because all the communities it serves have frequent services to other destinations, in contrast to other parts of the county where no such choice exists. All the journeys on service 45 can be made using other services, albeit with connections which will not be so convenient as the through service.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

The Chairman stated that he would be attending a meeting of the scrutiny committee on the 24th August at County Hall to object to the withdrawal of this service as many parishioners feel strongly about it.

Individual representation should be made to County Hall re objections to the removal of this bus service as this will carry more weight than a petition.

2006/163. NEW BYE-LAWS WITHIN THE PARISH

As previously requested the Clerk reported on what actions the Parish Council would have to take to produce new byelaws for parks and open spaces etc.:

- The Council would have to formally resolve to adopt said byelaws.
- Once wording etc. has been approved they must be signed under the hands + seals of two councillors.

- Advertise the byelaws in one or more newspapers circulating in the area. This could be the Herald
- For at least one month after the date of publication of newspaper, a copy of byelaws must be held on deposit in the office for inspection by the public if such a request is received.
- To avoid confusion Councils are advised to ensure that the byelaws are advertised after they have been sealed.
- Any member of the public who applies for a copy or part thereof is allowed to receive one but it is recommended that a fee be charged of 10p per 100 words
- Application to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for confirmation should not be made until the month of deposit has expired. Two sealed original copies of the byelaws should be sent to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
- When he confirms the byelaws the first Secretary of State may fix the date upon which they are to come into force. The date will normally be one month from the point of confirmation.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted neighbouring Councils for their comment on the effectiveness of byelaws. The general consensus of opinion was that they are not worth the paper they are written on.

The Chairman asked members if they wished to continue with forming new byelaws.

It was unanimously resolved to take no further action.

2006/164. CHAIRMAN'S EVENING

Invitations to the Chairman's evening on Friday 29th September 2006 have been sent out. Replies have been requested back by 1st September 2006.

2006/165. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	7942.86
J. Adcock – Postages	57.87
ABC Motors – Petrol/oil	168.77
J.F. Spence to repair slide Dale Acre	29.37
ESPO – graffiti remover	19.61
BT – Phone	166.42
EL Fencing – to repair fencing Leysland Open Space	399.50
L.R.A.P.L.C. – Arnold Baker – Local Council Administration	53.45
Chapman's Garden Machinery – Repairs to equipment	173.47
Alice Graphics – 1000 letterheads	41.13
Blaby District Council – Ground maintenance contract July/August	863.72
Neptune – Bench	574.62

2006/166. MATTERS FOR THE CLERK

The Leicestershire Constabulary is holding a recruiting campaign for Special Constables for further information contact PC136 Nick Miles Special Constabulary and Volunteers Co-ordinator, telephone 0116 2222222 ext. 2062 or Nicholas.miles@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk.

Blaby District Council is holding a Parish Council Seminar on Wednesday 20th September 2006 at 6.30pm. – 9.00pm. at the Council Offices in Narborough. If any councillor wishes to attend please inform the Clerk before Wednesday 18th August.

A letter has been received from Leicestershire County Council stating the local bus service 130 Claybroke Magna to Leicester will operate for the last time on Saturday 2nd September 2006.

The Chairman thanked members of the public for attending and asked if they would now leave the meeting as the next item was to be taken ‘in camera’

This was duly done.

Meeting closed @ 9.05 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2006