

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTSTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 9th FEBRUARY 2006 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT: -

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

There were six members of the public present.

The Chairman reported that Anna Pullen the previous County Councillor for Countesthorpe had passed away and asked members to observe a one minute silence. This was duly done.

The Chairman asked if members would agree to donate to Anna's chosen charities, Loros and Blaby & Whetstone Boys Club. It was resolved to donate £50 to each of the charities from the Chairman's allowance.

2006/24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mrs. K. Yates and Mrs. C. James.

2006/25. 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.)

Village Plan:

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

Finance working party:

Mr. I. Paterson – Stuart Cosby Memorial Trust

2006/26. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 12th January 2006 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2006/27. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 25th January 2006 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

It was mentioned that an extra £1000 had been allowed this year for Christmas tree lights in the churchyard. This has arisen due to the comments received from parishioners over the lack of them.

2006/28. MATTERS ARISING

Letters of thanks were received from:

- Reality Youth Project for grant aid of £2000.
- South Leicestershire Citizens Advice Bureau for grant aid of £100.
- Active Arts for grant aid of £100 towards the Maze project at Greenfield Primary School.

2006/29. TOILETS – CENTRAL STREET

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Martin Taylor, Building Control & Corporate Manager, Blaby District Council and asked him to report on the toilets in Central Street.

Mr. Taylor read a report that had been compiled:

He stated that the toilets had been closed in 2003 due to evidence of antisocial behaviour and drug taking. A security firm had been employed to close the toilets in the evening but even so the cost to repair, redecorate and clean the toilets had become untenable. A survey had been undertaken and 66% of residents were in favour of the toilets being closed.

The following enquiries had been made with regard to the use of the land:

The Axe & Square had been approached by the District Council with regard to purchasing some of their land so that the site could be enlarged and perhaps used for a different purpose. The owner of the Axe and Square stated that he did not want to sell any of their land.

A superloo had been considered but it was felt that this would not be self financing.

Mr. I. Paterson asked what was going to be done as the above proposals were going nowhere?

Mr. M. Smith felt that a survey of nearby residents would agree to the closing of the toilets, as they were not used by them. The toilets were a definite loss of an amenity to the village.

Mr. Taylor asked the members what was their preferred option and he would prepare a report and submit it to Blaby District Council.

Mr. M. Smith proposed, seconded by Mr. K. Mason that a superloo should be installed on the site. This was resolved. Mr. D. Jennings and Mr. F.E. Duffield did not take part in this vote as they would be involved in discussion at the District Council with regard to this matter.

Mr. Taylor explained that superloos could be purchased or hired. If one was hired he felt that it would be expected to finance itself.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Taylor for attending the meeting.

2006/30 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES

Blaby District Council Press Releases

Implementation of Car Park charges

New Car Park Signs - Central Street

Recycling B.D.C.

Thorpe Astley Community Centre

- Leicestershire Waste Management Partnership Strategy 2006
- October – National Poetry Month Ltd.
- Nottingham East Midlands Airport Draft Master Plan Public Exhibition Timetable
- DEFRA – East Midlands Regional Rural Development Framework Consultation 16th January – 10th April 2006
- CPRE – Leicestershire Newsletter
- Leicestershire County Council Customer Feedback Survey re Holyrood Drive Footway Reconstruction

2006/31. POLICE MATTERS

Mr. D. Jennings read a letter he had received from the Leicestershire Police Authority which outlined the financial situation the force anticipated it would find itself in during 2006/07. This had occurred because the Government grant formula was not being adhered to and Leicestershire will receive £5.86m less than the Government's own formula suggests is required. A 7.5% increase in the precept would be required to cover the £3.4m shortfall.

Members listened in dismay to the increase that would be required and it was resolved to write to the Member of Parliament re inadequate funding.

2006/32. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mr. I. Paterson reported on the following:

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – Notification of decision in respect of proposed work to trees – Blaby District Council:

Location: 2 Church Street – Removal of one conifer and reduction in height of several conifers – not protected by a Tree Preservation Order but are situated in Countesthorpe Conservation Area.

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

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0511711 PY 18.11.05	20 The Plantation	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0511931 PX 30.11.05	3 Skye Way	- ditto -
0511971 PX 1.12.05	25 The Dales	- ditto -
0510621 LX 25.11.05	Lime Cottage, 2 The Drive	- 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
0600091 PY	5 Cherry Tree Close	Single storey rear extension to form conservatory	No observations
0512671 PX	12 Walnut Way	Single storey rear extension	No observations
0512661 PX	33 Wheatlands Drive	Two storey side & single storey front & rear extension	
0600231 PY	Land rear of 1 Austrey Lane	Change of use of barn & adjacent land from agriculture to the storage of building materials & alterations to front elevation of barn (part retrospective)	No observations
0600411 PY	10 Tebbs Close	Single storey rear extension to form conservatory	No observations
0600531 PX	39 Willoughby Road	Single storey rear extension including conservatory & roof extension to create chalet bungalow	No observations
Leics. C.C.	Countesthorpe Community College	AMENDMENT to application for construction of artificial sports pitch with 6 No. 15m high floodlights & erection of changing rooms, car parking, link footpath, ass. lighting & bund, together with 1.8m high fencing & removal of existing sports pitch, including revised landscaping, lighting & parking details.	No observations

Leics. C.C.	Countesthorpe Community College	Proposed relocation and continued standing of double mobile classroom	No observations
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2006/33. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Mr. D. Ball reported on a working party meeting held on Monday 6th February 2006:

The Clerk had received a quotation for bedding plants from Glebe Gardens. A further quotation for summer bedding plants from Palmers Garden Centre was requested.

Willoughby Road Playing Fields: The work on the hedge had almost been completed. It was suggested that a chestnut paling type fence be erected to allow the new hedge to mature without damage. This would cost approximately £140. It was resolved to purchase 50 metres of fencing.

Oswin Builders are to be asked to provide a quotation for laying an underground cable from the new flood lights to the Cornerstone building to allow Christmas lights to be once again erected in the closed churchyard.

Many complaints have been received about the amount of litter dropped by school children during the lunch break along Station Road/Cosby Road/Linden Avenue/Westfield Drive/Penfold Avenue.

The Clerk was asked to send letters to the Principal of the College and the Headmaster of Leysland High School asking for their help in this matter. The Mercury newsagent and the Ark Supermarket where a lot of food and sweets are purchased at lunch time will also be asked if they can help with this problem.

Concern has been raised about the number of vehicles that park on the grass verges in Countesthorpe thus causing muddy patches. The assistance of the Police in this matter should be sought.

The Clerk reported that the final loan repayment for the Village Hall would be 1st July 2020 (25 year loan) and 1st January 2025 for the Cemetery (60 year loan).

2006/34. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Finance Working Party

Mr. K. Mason recommended that grant aid (section 137) of £1000 be given to the Stuart Cosby Memorial Trust this year. This was resolved.

Mr. I. Paterson declared an interest in this item as he is a member of the Trust.

County Councillor

Mr. D. Jennings reported that this year there would be an increase in council tax by Leicestershire County Council of 4.3%. This was due in part to the fact that Leicestershire County Council was one of the poorest Government funded in the country.

Best Kept Village Competition

Mr. D. Ball reported on the following:

The working party recommended not to reinstate the competition for the best commercial property. A discussion ensued and it was felt that the commercial properties should be encouraged to enter this competition. Individual letters should be sent to all commercial properties asking them to enter into the spirit of the competition as well as a promotion in the Herald. Mr. Ball disagreed with this as he felt that the same properties won year after year.

Mr. Ball therefore proposed, seconded by Mrs. J. Weatherstone that this section of the competition be discontinued.

An amendment was made by Mr. D. Jennings seconded by Mr. I. Paterson that the best commercial property should be included in the competition.

The Chairman asked members to vote:

The amendment was carried.

Mr. D. Ball recommended that we did not enter the Best Kept Village Competition this year. A time consuming questionnaire has to be filled in and it was felt that the competition is biased. Mr. M. Smith agreed to write an article for the Herald explaining these sentiments.

Mr. Ball also asked for the co-operation of all members with regard to the judging of the best kept front garden. He felt that the working party was let down last year and it was a very time consuming job if it had to be done by just 1 or 2 members.

2006/35. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Mr. G. Gamble stated that there was nothing to report after the last Village Hall Management meeting.

2006/36. PARISH PLAN

Rev. M. Gillespie reported on the web site.

The launch of the web site will be held in the Library on 14th February everyone would be welcome. Coffee or tea to be provided.

An events calendar is being produced and any information should be forwarded to M. Gillespie.

The booklet is now with the printer.

Youth Event:

Rev. M. Gillespie wished to thank everyone who had participated in this event. 70 young people attended with 9 parish councillors and visitors from other organisations. Information on the event will be collated at a meeting to be held on 23rd February.

A proposal to hold an internet café afternoon in the lounge on a Tuesday afternoon from 3pm. until 6pm. was made. Lap tops, coffee and supervision would be provided by the Youth Council section of Leicestershire County Council via Councillor A. Clifford.

Rev. M. Gillespie proposed seconded by Mr. K. Mason that we should enter into a partnership with Leicestershire County Council to provide an internet café facility for a trial period starting 1st April for 12 weeks. This was agreed in principle but Mr. Clifford was asked to report back to the council next month with firm proposals.

Mr. I. Paterson stated that the lounge would not be unavailable on the second Tuesday of each month as the U3A hire the hall/lounge.

Mention was also given to the possibility of a Youth Council. A meeting to take place in the first instance with representatives of this Parish Council.

Notice Board:

Mr. I. Paterson reported that a written quotation of £4315 exclusive of VAT and installation had been received from Fitzpatrick Woolmer for the notice board. A pencil drawing of an aerial photograph will be forwarded to the Council in the first instance for approval and then a coloured map will be forwarded for approval before a final copy is produced.

2006/37. BUS SERVICES

No response has been received to a letter sent to Arriva on the 23rd January 2006. This was noted.

2006/38. DISUSED RAILWAY LINE – COUNTSTHORPE TO HOSPITAL LANE

Mr. I. Paterson reported on a meeting held at Blaby District Council on 2nd February 2006. The following attended: The Clerk, Mr. I. Paterson, Rev. M. Gillespie, Mrs. S. Whyles (Chief Executive B.D.C.) Mr. S. Beard, Ms. S. Dobbie, Mrs. P. Gould and Councillor Webster-Williams.

After a discussion representatives from Blaby District Council agreed to pursue the matter. Mrs. P. Gould stated that negotiations with the landowner would be opened up.

2006/39. ANNUAL PARISH FOOTPATH WALK

Mr. I. Paterson will arrange for the footpath walk to take place on 20th May 2006. Walkers to meet in the Square at 2 pm. The walk will go along Austrey Lane to the Meres.

2006/40. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	7732.64
J. Adcock – Postages	39.02
ABC Motors – Petrol/oil	76.00
Leics. Footpath Ass. – Annual subscription	5.00
Green Wave Technology Ltd. – Website development	1057.50
Blaby D.C. – Grounds maintenance + grass cutting August – October 2005	1049.22
B. Telecom – Telephone	167.26
Ordnance Survey – Publishing Licence booklet	55.81
Leics. & Rutland Ass. of Parish & Local Councils – Annual subscription	527.00
Wicksteed Leisure – See-saw + safety surfacing	4051.06
ARCO – Safety Shoes	46.41
ESPO – Protective Clothing	117.23
Cromwell –Protective clothing	55.25
Clare Biggs – Buffet for Youth Meeting	315.00
Loros – Mrs. A. Pullens Charity (Chairman’ Allowance)	50.00
Blaby & Whetstone Boys Club - Mrs. A. Pullens Charity (Chairman’ Allowance)	50.00
Stuart Cosby Memorial Trust – Grant Aid (section 137)	1000.00

2006/41. MATTERS FOR THE CLERK

The Blaby District Council Arts Festival for 2006 will be held in June.

The Countesthorpe Scouts Gala will be held on Saturday 24th June 2006.

Meeting closed @ 9.15 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2006