

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 12th JANUARY 2006 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, T. Blood, A. Clifford, F.E. Duffield, D. Duffield, M. Gillespie, I. Paterson, M. Smith
Mrs. J. Adcock	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. P. Mount	Deputy Clerk to the Council

There were 17 members of the public present.

2006/1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mr. G. Gamble and Mr. A. Billings.

2006/2. 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

Reports of Working Parties, Representatives & District Councillors - Finance Working Party):

Rev. M. Gillespie – Member of St. Andrew’s Church

2006/3. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 8th December 2005 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2006/4. MATTERS ARISING

Mr. D. Jennings reported that he had spoken to the Chief Executive at Blaby District Council with regard to correspondence about the disused railway line that had been sent to the District but no reply had been received. The Chief Executive reported that no record of any correspondence being received could be found.

The Clerk reported that she had sent further copies to the District. These had now been delivered by hand.

2006/5. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES

- Clerks and Councils Direct
- Nottingham East Midlands Airport - Draft Master Plan Exhibition Time Table
- ESPO – Energy Matters Magazine
- Village Voice
- Leics. Rural Partnership – Oakleaf Newsletter
- Blaby District Council – Environmental Health – Newsletter
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – Standards Conduct in Local Government – The Future
- TEP Stepping Stones Feasibility Study
- NALC – Legal Topic Note – Basic Charity Law – Local Councils & Trustees

2006/6. POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman invited WPC Physic to address the meeting:

WPC Physic stated that reported crimes in the village had dropped. Extra patrols involving the riot van and dog van had been used in an effort to reduce anti social behaviour. Problems at the Spoilbank seem to have gone away although more problems are being experienced on the Leysland open space.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that he had received complaints about the behaviour of youths on the Leysland open space.

Mrs. K. Yates asked if the selling of alcohol to under-aged youths had been looked into.

WPC Physic stated that several shops in and around Countesthorpe had been found to be selling alcohol to under-aged youths and the shop-keepers had been dealt with accordingly.

The Chairman gave permission for a member of the public to speak.

A resident of Glebe Drive complained that youths gather along the drive in the evening drinking. This matter had been reported to the police but the problem persists.

WPC Physic stated that she had visited this site and moved people on but would note the complaint and ask for the site to be monitored.

2006/7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mr. I. Paterson reported on the following:

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

Open space adjacent to Sunbury Rise:

Felling of three Ash trees, reduce and reshape one Oak tree and raise and reduce crowns of eleven Ash trees.

Open space adjacent of The Dales:

Felling of one Willow tree and two Lime trees and formative prune and removal of deadwood of seven Ash trees and Field Maples.

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

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0510331 PX 18.10.05	Rose Farm Cottage, Leicester Road	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0510111 VY 7.10.05	Pizza Point, 2 The Bank	- ditto -
0511531 PX 14.11.05	8 Springwell Drive	Refusal of Planning Permission

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

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0512291 PX	Countesthorpe Post Office, 69 Station Road	New flat roof over existing single storey side extension, single storey rear extension, external staircase & railings & mobile sorting office/storage building at rear.	No access to rear No parking for staff/shoppers Serious drainage problem Unsocial hours re cash and carry Site meeting requested.

Mr. I. Paterson stated that with regard to the above planning application, observations could only be made on the actual application. A letter of explanation had been received from the applicant which Mr. Paterson proceeded to read to the meeting. Letters with objections to the application had also been received and these were noted.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that the description on the planning application was misleading and he had informed Blaby District Council of this fact.

Mr. Woolman of 67 Station Road asked the Chairman if residents could speak on this matter.

The Chairman asked members and permission was granted.

Mr. Woolman stated that he felt that the opening times for the cash and carry were totally unacceptable. Parking was a problem at the moment and this would only increase. Mr. Woolman stated that he had been in touch with the General Post Office and they had informed him that there were no plans at the present time for the sorting of mail to be carried out in Countesthorpe.

Mr. N. Somani the applicant stated that several mistakes had been made on the planning application:

- The applicant did not live on the premises
- It was not intended to run the premises as a cash and carry only a supermarket
- Rear access would not be required

He further stated that :

A request had been made to the General Post Office to have the sorting of mail returned to Countesthorpe.

The existing drainage capacity was sufficient for the current proposals.

Mr. J. Marsh the owner of the land adjacent to the post office stated that he was not in negotiations with regard to a side access for the post office.

Mr. I. Paterson reiterated his previous comments and stated that observations could only be made on the planning application received.

2006/8. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Mr. D. Ball reported on a meeting held on Monday 9th January 2006

Footpath Maple Avenue to Leicester Road.

The following letter has been received from a resident of Edgeley Road:

“Will you consider erecting a cycle block at the Leicester Road end of the path between Maple Avenue and Leicester Road?

There is a blind spot for pedestrians approaching from the village and also for cyclists.

There have been a few near misses between pedestrians and cyclists emerging from the Spinney, mainly due to the speed of the cyclists.

An alternative solution would be to divert the path a few metres towards Leicester eliminating the blind spot”.

The Clerk forwarded this letter to the Highways Department for their consideration. The following letter was sent to the resident from the Highways Department:

“I have inspected the site but do not consider that the installation of a barrier would provide a suitable deterrent to cyclists in this instance, as this is an open area and it is likely that they would cycle across the land at the side of the barrier.

The installation of staggered barriers would also restrict the use of the footpath by prams and wheelchairs”.

The comments of both letters were noted.

Notice Board Gwendoline Drive

A quotation for a new notice board on Gwendoline Drive has been obtained. The cost will be £160. It was resolved to replace the broken notice board.

Spoilbank – The area where the climbing frame was removed needs to be reinstated. It was resolved to infill with top soil and re seed the area in the spring.

Cemetery Foston Road – A further request, by a relative of a deceased person, has been received for a seat to be purchased and sited in the cemetery. It was resolved to grant this request subject to the seat provided being of a type approved by the Council.

It is recommended that the Clerk seek legal advice from the Burial Board and the Council’s solicitors with regard to the Councils legal responsibilities for memorials. This was resolved.

2006/9. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Mr. D. Jennings reported that Blaby District Council intend to provide a mini car parking area in Reedpool Close. The area will be paved with a new compound made of rubber which will allow grass to grow through (Grasscrete).

Finance Working Party – Rev. M. Gillespie declared an interest, as a member of St. Andrews Church, and took no part in the discussion.

Mr. K. Mason reported on the following grant aid applications:

Mr. Mason confirmed that he had been given a copy of the Charity Commissions registration for ‘Reality Youth Project’. This charity is working with the youth in Countesthorpe and the grant would help to pay the wages of the youth worker Matt Brown. The working party recommend that £2000 be granted to aid this work.

Mr. K. Mason proposed, seconded by Mr. T. Blood that £2000 (section 137) be given to the charity. When put to the vote 14 voted for the proposal with one objection from Mr. F.E. Duffield.

The Citizens Advice Bureau has requested support for their Blaby offices. It was resolved to award grant aid of £100 under section 137.

A request for grant aid has been received from the Open Space Society. It was recommended that no grant aid be awarded as the Council already pay an annual subscription to the society. This was resolved.

The annual Parish Council Budget Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th January 2006 at 7.30 pm.

Mr. A. Collis-Smith reported that he had attended a meeting at Police Headquarters where local reorganisation was discussed.

2006/10. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£
Blaby District Council – Rates	238.00
ESPO – Cleaning materials	52.72
Tranter – Replacement of light tubes	14.75
John Maynard – Stock take	70.00
Countesthorpe Village Hall Trustees – Annual rent	100.00
Ray’s Supplies – Pop/crisps	81.23
David A. Clarke – Check/test rear car park lights	162.15
Scottish Courage – Beers	251.78
ESPO – Gas November/December	296.23

Salaries for December 2005:

Bar Manager, Cleaner	557.94
Countesthorpe Parish Council – tax returns/pensions	396.19

Refund of Deposits

Mrs. A. Norman – cancellation 14.4.06 (Bond)	100.00
Mrs. Warner – 14.1.06	150.00
M. Dufour – 20.1.06	50.00
C’thorpe Heritage Group – 20.1.06	50.00
Leic. School of Music – 22.1.06	50.00
Blaby Meridian Rotary Club – 27.1.06	150.00
D. Shirton – 28.1.06	150.00
P. Smith – 5.2.06	50.00

2006/11. PARISH PLAN

Mr. A. Clifford reported that he had spoken to Mrs. K. Johnston at Blaby District Council with regard to whether or not he was able to speak at Parish Council meetings as he was employed by Leicestershire County Council Youth and Community Section. Mr. Clifford was advised that he could speak but if financial matters were raised he must declare an interest.

Rev. M. Gillespie reported on the following:

The website is almost ready to be launched. Ideas with regard to how this should be publicised would be most welcome.

The second draft of the booklet will be read on Wednesday 18th January 2006 and it will then be forwarded to the printers.

Youth open meeting 1st February – A discussion paper was circulated to members at the meeting. Flyers advertising the evening are being distributed to school children by Matt Brown and Adrian Clifford.

It was proposed that the catering for the evening be paid for out of the Village Plan budget. The cost would be £3.50 per head, to cater for 100 people. This was resolved.

Notice Board – Mr. I. Paterson reported that he and the Rev. M. Gillespie had met with a representative from Fitzpatrick Woolmer to discuss proposals for a new notice board to replace the existing board at the front of the Parish Offices. The board would be in three sections, the side sections for notices, one would be lockable for Council notices and the other would be for public use. The centre board would display an A2 size map of the village. A CD appertaining to all the details would then belong to the Countesthorpe Parish Council. The approximate cost of the board would be £4880. The Clerk was asked to write to the company to obtain an official quotation. It is envisaged that two more boards would be purchased at a later date, one in the area of the Square and the other in the Winchester Road area. Mr. I. Paterson stated that he believed Grant Aid from Blaby District Council could be applied for; this avenue would be looked into.

A copy of the village map was circulated to all members. Mr. I. Paterson asked if ‘additions/omissions’ could be inserted as changes had been made over the years and the map was out of date. He asked members to return them to the Clerk.

Mr. I. Paterson proposed seconded by Rev. M. Gillespie that a notice board is purchased, when put to the vote 10 councillors voted for the notice board and 4 councillors voted against the proposal two of whom wished to have their names recorded, Mr. F.E. Duffield and Mr. D. Jennings. It was resolved to purchase one notice board.

Rev. M. Gillespie explained that the notice boards were being considered as a direct result of requests made by parishioners who replied to the Village Plan questionnaire, a way of enhancing the look of the village.

2006/12. AUDIT 2004/05

The audit for 2004/05 carried out by Hacker Young, Chartered Accountants has been returned. The following comment was made:-

“The only comment I have to make is that whilst the Council and the Internal Auditor had reviewed the level of the fidelity guarantee insurance cover, the generally accepted level of cover is the sum of the reserves plus half the precept. This suggests a much higher level of cover than that currently held. It is suggested therefore that the Council should review its cover in due course”.

The Clerk advised that Finance working party would meet to discuss this matter as well as the Council’s insurance policies. Date to be announced.

2006/13. BUS SERVICES – COUNTESTHORPE TO LEICESTER

The Clerk circulated a letter prior to the meeting, from ARRIVA which was in response to a letter sent last month complaining about the poor service at peak times of the 85 bus service. Arriva requested the following information:

- Expected time of services
- Times waiting (from and to)
- Dates of incidents
- Exact places intending to board
- Where intending to alight
- Description of drivers
- Approximate number of passenger’s travelling/waiting at this time
- Photo Copy of Travel pass if used
- Vehicle Registration/Fleet numbers

The Council felt that the response was inappropriate and a further letter should be sent to them.

A member of the public stated that she had complained and had received an acknowledgement which stated that a reply would be sent within 10 days. The complaint was made on the 19th December and to date no reply had been received.

2006/14. LEICESTERSHIRE. COUNTY COUNCIL - MAIN STREET JUNCTION WITH CHURCH STREET

The Clerk circulated the following letter from Leicestershire County Council:

“I understand that you are concerned that traffic emerging from Church Street on to Main Street is failing to give way at the junction.

Having checked our records of accidents involving personal injury I would advise you that there has been one “slight” injury accident during the past five years.

I am reluctant to consider changing the priorities at this junction as you suggest. Experience has shown that changes of this nature cause problems for motorists who know the existing junction layout and there is a real danger that the accident records will increase as a result. Although the present layout is not ideal it is not clear how it can be improved given the constraints imposed by the existing building lines”.

The contents of the letter were noted.

2006/15. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – LEICESTER ROAD/HOSPITAL LANCE JUNCTION – PROPOSED LOCAL SAFETY SCHEME

A letter requesting a mini roundabout at the above junction was sent to the Highways Department after last months meeting. A reply has been received explaining why this would not be appropriate.

The contents of the letter were noted.

2006/16. TOILETS – CENTRAL STREET

Copies of letters received from Blaby District Council dating back to 2002 were circulated to members prior to the meeting which all give a similar answer to the one received on 22nd December 2005 which read:

“Unfortunately, I am unable to confirm the future of the above property as to date no firm decisions have been made. I will of course keep you informed of any progress”.

After a discussion it was resolved to ask Mrs. J.A. Dickinson portfolio holder for Housing and Assets + an officer from Blaby District Council to attend the next meeting to discuss this on going issue. It was also resolved to send a copy of the letter to the leader of Blaby District Council.

2006/17. DISUSED RAILWAY – COUNTTESTHORPE TO HOSPITAL LANE

A meeting has been arranged for the 26th January 2006 at Blaby District Council with Mrs. Whyles, Mr. Beard and Mrs. Gould to discuss the above.

Mr. K. Mason, Mr. I. Paterson, Rev. M. Gillespie and the Clerk will attend.

2006/18. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages Account	9000.00
J. Adcock – Postages	32.33
Active Arts – Grant Aid – Maize, Greenfield School	100.00
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Sherry/coke/orange for Chairman’s evening	7.67
Reality Youth Project – Grant Aid	2000.00
Hacker Young – Audit 2004/05	881.25

Chapmans Garden Machinery - Spring Coil (strimmer)	10.66
Post Office Ltd. – Tax for Pick up truck	170.00
T.F. Bell Group – Insurance for Pick up truck	789.66
South Leicestershire – Citizens Advice Bureau – grant aid	100.00
International Tree Foundation – Annual Subscription	25.00
ABC Motor Carriers Ltd. – Petrol/oil	86.98
ESPO – Stationery	129.75
B. Telecom – Internet Services – January – March	158.62
Parochial Church Council of C’thorpe Parish – Electricity for Church Tower	40.42
Canon – Rental/photocopying	253.35

2006/19. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Clerk read a letter from Mrs. Kris Johnston Head of Administration and Legal Services Blaby District Council re Proposal to Establish a Standards Sub-Committee, the contents of which were noted.

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’

Meeting Closed at 9.35pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2006

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 12th JANUARY 2006 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT:

2006/20. STAFF SALARIES – ITEM TO BE DISCUSSED ‘IN CAMERA’

The Chairman of the Finance working party Mr. K. Mason reported that the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks had agreed upon a total re-assessment of salaries, terms and conditions, for Council Clerks.

At this point, the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk were asked to vacate the meeting, in order that a discussion could take place.

Upon returning to the meeting, Mr. K. Mason advised the Clerk and Deputy Clerk that the following had been unanimously resolved:

- the Clerk would be paid on point 34 pro-rata (substantive benchmark range b)
- the Deputy Clerk would be paid 75% of point 34 pro-rata

The increase will be back dated to April 2005 in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks recommendations. Future salary increases for the Clerk and Deputy Clerk will be dealt with as per previous agreements, in accordance with National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks recommendations as per minute 94/209.

On behalf of the Deputy Clerk and herself the Clerk thanked the Council.

Mrs. J. Weatherstone proposed, seconded by Mrs. C. James that it be recorded that the Council were extremely happy with the work that the Clerk and Deputy Clerk carried out.

This was reiterated by members.

Meeting Closed at 9.35pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2006