

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTSTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 9th MARCH 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, C. James, J. Weatherstone, K. Yates
Messrs:	D. Ball, T. Blood, A. Clifford, D. Duffield, F.E. Duffield, G. Gamble, M. Gillespie, K. Mason, I. Paterson
Mrs. J. Adcock	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. P. Mount	Deputy Clerk to the Council

There were five members of the public present.

2006/42. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mr. A. Billings and Mr. M. Smith.

2006/43. 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.)

Parish Plan:

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

Planning Applications

Mrs. A. Baum – Neighbour of applicant at No. 8 Laurel Drive

Accounts for Payment:

Mr. D. Ball (Best Kept Front Garden Competition)

2006/44. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 9th February 2006 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2006/45. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Clerk read a letter of thanks from the Stuart Cosby Memorial Trust for the grant aid donation awarded to them at last months meeting.

2006/46 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES

- Open Space Booklet
- Campaign for Protection of Rural England – Fieldwork Booklet
- Campaign for Protection of Rural England - Newsletter
- Leics. County Council – Branchline Newsletter

Blaby District Council Press Releases

- 5 Year Agreement for Wildlife Area – Fosse Meadows
- Council Tax 2005/06
- £150,000 to support Huncote Leisure Centre
- Budget proposals address local needs

2006/47. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk read the following letter from Andrew Robathan, M.P. which was in response to a letter sent to him last month regarding Police funding in Leicestershire:

“Thank you for your letter of the 20th February about police funding.

I have already written to the Chief Constable and the Chairman of the Police Authority giving my support. Unfortunately, you will understand that this Government is not particularly interested in what I – or indeed what the people of Leicestershire – think. We are battling here in the House of Commons to prevent unnecessary, top down country Constabulary reorganisations and on behalf of my constituents, I feel we are short changed in this as in many other matters by this Labour Government”.

The contents were noted.

2006/48. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mr. I. Paterson reported on the following:

Mrs. A. Baum left the meeting when planning application 06/0126/1/PX - 8 Laurel Drive was discussed.

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0512671 PX	12 Walnut Way	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0512661 PX	33 Wheatlands Drive	- ditto -

0600091 PY	5 Cherry Tree Close	- ditto -
0600231 PY	Land Rear of 1 Austrey Lane	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
0601261 PX	8 Laurel Drive	Single storey extension to west elevation	Over development of site. Detrimental to street scene. The application should be viewed in conjunction with planning app. No. 04/0876/1/PX which was approved on appeal – difficult to discern.
0601341 PY	30 Spinney Avenue	Single storey side extension to form conservatory	No observations
0601381 PX	5 Orchard Lane	Single storey side and rear extension	No observations
0601281 PX	35 Winchester Road	Replace existing front flat roof with pitched roof	No observations
0601691 PX	11 The Rowans	First floor rear extension	The Parish Council feel that this is an over development of the site.
0601781 PY	29 Rosebank Road	Single storey rear extension to form conservatory	No observations

A draft copy of the Nottingham East Midlands Airport Master Plan has been received. The copy is available for inspection in the Parish office.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that the rules governing the height of boundary fencing and walls have changed. He recommended that anyone seeking advice should contact the planning department at Blaby District Council.

2006/49. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Mr. F.E. Duffield reported on a working party meeting held on Monday 6th March 2006:

Quotations have been received from Glebe Gardens and Palmers Garden Centre for summer bedding plants. The working party recommended that the quotation from Glebe Gardens be accepted. This was resolved.

Soars Lodge Farm – extension of existing site for composting. The working party felt that at this stage no problems could be foreseen.

The Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation for the supply and planting of a mature tree for the Spinney. A Copper Beech tree was suggested. Mrs. C. James stated that she felt that this species of tree was out of keeping for the Spinney, an Oak tree should be considered.

Glebe Gardens are holding a planning meeting on 6th April at 10.30 to discuss the forthcoming Glebefest. Mr. T. Blood and Mr. D. Ball volunteered to attend.

A donation of £10 has been received from Glebe Gardens for the Holly that was pruned off the trees in the cemetery at Christmas time.

The working party recommended that the Burial Board Fees should be increased this year from 1st April 2006. The fees should be rounded up by 10%. This was resolved.

The fees indicated for the various heads in Part 1 do not include the digging of the grave.

2006/2007

PART 1. INTERMENTS

1.	For the interment in any grave: -	
(i)	of the body of a still born child, or of a child whose age at the time of death did not exceed one month.	8.00
(ii)	of the body of a child whose age at the time of death exceeded one month but did not exceed 10 years.	11.00
(iii)	of the body of a person whose age at the time of death exceeded 10 years.	29.00
2.	For the interment of cremated remains in a grave in respect of which an exclusive right of burial has been granted.	29.00
3.	A scattering of ashes	17.00

PART 2. EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS OF BURIAL IN EARTHEN GRAVES

1.	For the exclusive right of burial in perpetuity in an earthen grave 8 feet by 4 feet.	68.00
2.	For the exclusive right of burial of cremated remains in an earthen grave 2 feet by 2 feet.	29.00

PART 3. MONUMENTS, GRAVESTONES, TABLETS AND MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS

Application must be made via a Stone Mason or Funeral Director for one of the following options:

For the right to erect and place on a grave for which an exclusive Right of Burial has been granted:

1.	Headstone - Not exceeding 2'6" high. Can be mounted onto a plinth max. of 4". Slab 2'6" long x 1'6".	18.00
2.	Monument in the form of -A Portable Iron or Stone Vase - Not exceeding 1' in height and occupying a space not exceeding 1' by 1'	15.00
3.	A Combined Portable Tablet, Vase and Base – Not exceeding 14" in height and occupying a space not exceeding 14" x 14".	15.00
4.	The fees indicated for the various options of this Part include the first inscription. For each inscription after the first a fee of £10.00 is payable.	11.00

The fees will be doubled for non-parishioners. The Clerk will have discretion to waive this provision in the case of parishioners of long standing who have been obliged to reside outside the parish during their declining years in order to receive nursing or other residential care.

2006/50. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Finance Working Party

Grant aid request have been received from:-

Countesthorpe College Summer Play scheme
Dogs for the Blind

These will be considered at the next finance working party meeting.

County & District Councillor

Mr. D. Jennings reported on the following:-

Bus passes for the over 60's will continue as last year. Travel within the Blaby District is free after 9.30 am.

Brook Court

The following is an extract from a letter sent to Mr. D. Jennings from the Housing Operations Manager at Blaby District Council:

“I am writing with regards to the leylandi trees between Brook Court and the owner occupied properties on Shetland Way.

Over recent weeks, I have been unsuccessful in reaching a compromise in relation to the height of these trees. In brief, some residents of Brook Court require the tree height to be reduced to around two metres, whilst the affected residents in Shetland Way require their height to be not less than 16ft. The residents at Brook Court have asked for this matter to be dealt with in line with the High Hedges legislation.

I believe the only appropriate way forward, is for Housing to step out of this matter, and allow the Environmental Health Service to undertake this investigation in accordance with the High Hedges legislation. I am given to understand that as part of the investigation process, all affected parties will be consulted, and their issues taken into account in the final decision. Housing will abide by the decision made by the Environmental Health Service”.

Meetings have taken place between residents of Brook Court and Shetland Way, Officers from Blaby District Council, Mr. P. Keyon Forestry Division, Leicestershire County Council, Mr. D. Jennings and Mrs. J. Adcock to discuss the height of the Leylandi trees at the rear of Brook Court.

Mr. P. Kenyon recommended that no more than 8ft. in any one year be lopped off the trees, if more is removed this may well destroy the trees long term.

When planning permission was granted in 1975 a tree planting scheme was approved to provide a screen between the Brook Court flats and the houses in Shetland Way.

After a discussion it was resolved to write to Mrs. Dawson Blaby District Council and ask her what the actual complaints of the residents are and also ask her to consult with the Parish Council before any decisions are taken with regard to these trees.

Policy and Resources working party

Bye-Laws

The Clerk was asked to ascertain how much it would cost to bring in new bye-laws and amend existing ones (advertising, displaying, legal costs, etc.).

Review of Staff

Draft procedures are being put together to carry out this review. This will become an annual procedure for all the work force.

N.A.L.C. Branch Meeting

The Chairman reported that together with Mrs. Weatherstone he had attended the branch meeting. Mrs. P. Gould from Blaby District Council was the main speaker at the meeting.

2006/51. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Mr. G. Gamble reported on the following:

The kitchen table had been badly scorched by a hirer of the hall on Saturday 4th March. A quotation for the work is being sought. The bond has not been returned to the hirer as yet.

The Scouts have once again approached the Village Hall re placing an advert in their gala brochure. The cost of the advert is £15. This was resolved.

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£
Tranter & Fire Security Systems Ltd. - annual maintenance	170.28
Powergen – electricity November 2005 – February 2006	844.13
ESPO – cleaning materials	65.52
ESPO – gas services	220.16
Waverley TBS – wines/spirits	346.37
Scottish & Newcastle UK – beers	551.29
BOC – gas/rental	59.84
MCR Systems – ribbon for bar till	9.11
Severn Trent Water – water	459.24
Steve Wharton – supply & fit part to cooker, clean burner & injector	90.00
PSS – alarm activation	28.20
Ray’s Supplies – Lemons, Crisps, pop	59.21

Salaries for March 2006

Bar Manager, Cleaner x 2	695.50
Countesthorpe Parish Council – tax returns/pensions	375.22

Refund of Deposits

Countesthorpe & Foston Heritage Group – 8.3.06	50.00
Inner Wheel – 10.3.06	100.00
R. Amey – 11.3.06	150.00
B.J. Stevens – 17.3.06	150.00
A. Joel – 18.3.06	150.00
D. Wells – 21.3.06	50.00
Countesthorpe Health Centre – 24.3.06	50.00
T.A. Payne – 25.3.06	150.00
Lilleywhites – 30.3.06	50.00
J. Viney – 1.4.06	150.00
Leics. Teaching Services – 4.4.06	50.00
B. Watts – 7.4.06	150.00

2006/52. PARISH PLAN

Rev. M. Gillespie reported on the following:

The office broadband router has had to be replaced. A quotation of £270 had been received from goIt to re-organise and re-schedule the backup system to the two computers which is causing problems. It was resolved to have this work carried out and this would be paid for out of the contingency fund.

A draft of the village information booklet has been received and this will be reviewed by the Parish Plan working party on Monday 13th March. The action plan will also be discussed at this meeting.

Excellent reports have been received about the web site. A few new features have been included this month including photos of the staff.

Mr. A. Clifford advised the Council that photos of young people should not be displayed on the web site without parental consent.

Rev. M. Gillespie stated that he would have the photos of the Youth meeting removed forthwith.

2006/53. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE

Mr. A. Clifford reported on the following:

A meeting of young people has been arranged (focus group) for Tuesday 28th March to discuss the running of the Youth Café. The Café would go live on Tuesday 25th April. This pilot scheme will have a 10 week window. Supervision will be provided by Mr. A. Clifford, youth development workers from the College, Jane McCormick and Matt Brown.

Other potential targets are to organise a personal safety course particularly for young women.

Access to funding set aside in the budget would probably be required in September for future development.

Lap tops etc. would be provided by Mr. A. Clifford.

The hall would be required from 3pm. – 6pm. As two classes use the hall after this event it was stressed that the premises must be left as it is found.

Mr. Clifford stated that he would circulate a full report on the findings of the Youth meeting held on 1st February at next months meeting.

2006/54. BUS SERVICES – COUNTESTHORPE TO LEICESTER

The Clerk read the following reply from Arriva to her letter re the number 85 service.

“I am sorry to hear that the service is not as your parishioners would expect. I would like to assure both them and you that all comments are fully investigated and changes made to improve services whenever possible and necessary. We are unfortunately though unable to investigate incidents of not showing and/or drivers taking different routes unless we have specific information such as the date and time. Without this information we are unable to consult the information that we hold and identify the driver concerned. Although I am unable to advise of any specific action taken following your comments, I

can advise that we have requested that this service be monitored for reliability and to check that drivers are always taking the correct route. If either you or your parishioners have any more specific examples of difficulties you have encountered please do not hesitate to contact me directly so that we can advise what has happened”.

The contents of the letter were noted.

2006/55. DISUSED RAILWAY – COUNTSTHORPE TO HOSPITAL LANE – update

The Clerk read the following extract from a copy of a letter sent to the Head of Planning and Development Services, Blaby District Council, by Hallam Land Management Ltd.

“Hallam Land Management Limited hold an option on this land and working with the landowners are presently putting together development proposals which could facilitate the construction of a walkway along the disused railway line. We are intending to present our proposals for consideration as part of the LDF process and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues in the Planning Department at the earliest opportunity”.

The question was raised whether this meant that Hallam’s intended to apply for planning permission to develop the land in this area!

2006/56. TOILETS CENTRAL STREET – update

No information has been received to date.

2006/57. BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL – CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING FOR COUNCILLORS

A course will be held on Thursday 23rd March at 2pm. at Blaby District Council Offices. Mr. A. Collis-Smith asked if his name could be put forward for this date. This was duly done.

2006/58. LITTER AROUND THE VILLAGE – RESPONSE FROM SCHOOLS

The Clerk reported that she had received responses to letters sent to Countesthorpe Community College and Leysland High School about litter. Both schools stated that they try to encourage their students to respect their environment especially with regard to the dropping of litter.

This on going problem will be monitored.

2006/59. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

A copy of this document had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting for their perusal. No comments were made.

2006/60. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts have been passed for payment:-

	£
Land Registry – search for land that is owned by C’thorpe Parish Council	10.00
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	7706.93
J. Adcock – postages	37.18
ABC Motors – petrol/oil	76.92
Leics. Fencing Contracts Ltd. – chestnut pailing Willoughby Rd. playing fields	193.88
D. Ball – 6 x photo frames – Best Kept Front Gardens	13.40
Cromwell Group (Holdings) Ltd. 3 x belts	17.52
Queensbury – glass replacement bus shelter	258.12
C.J. Wade – Notice board, Gwendoline Drive	165.00
goIT – Check computers	94.00
Alice Graphics – 3000 precept leaflets	74.00
Leics. & Rutland Ass. Parish & Local Councils – 2 x courses x 2 clerks	60.00
J. Jeffcott – paint for notice boards	28.64
Edge Designs Ltd. – technical support renewal 2006/07	211.50
Land Registry – plans for land owned by Countesthorpe Parish Council (6)	24.00

2006/61. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Clerk reported on the following items for information purposes:

- Review of Library Services for Rural Areas
- ENABLE – Partnership Event – The NSPCC National Training Centre, Leicester - Wednesday 29th March.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2006