

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 11th MAY 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, A. Billings, T. Blood, A. Clifford, D. Duffield, F.E. Duffield, M. Gillespie, K. Mason, M. Smith
Mrs. J. Adcock	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. P. Mount	Deputy Clerk to the Council

There were 5 members of the public present.

2006/85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mr. G. Gamble and Mr. I. Paterson.

2006/86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

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

Planning Matters:

Mr. F.E. Duffield (Planning Blaby District Council)
Mrs. J. Weatherstone (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.)

Youth Work within the Village:

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

Accounts for Payment

Rev. M. Gillespie - Reimbursement

2005/87. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. F.E. Duffield proposed, seconded by Mr. M. Smith that Mr. D. Jennings be Chairman for the ensuing year. This was unanimously resolved.

The outgoing Chairman Mr. A. Collis-Smith thanked all the Councillors for their support and help as well as Mrs. J. Adcock and Mrs. P. Mount. He stated that it had been a learning curve.

2005/88. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mr. K. Mason proposed, seconded by Mr. T. Blood that Mr. M. Smith be Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. This was unanimously resolved.

2005/89. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES: -

It was resolved that the following were duly elected to be the Parish Council's representatives.

- a) Council for the Protection of Rural England – Mr. I. Paterson
- b) Countesthorpe Twinning Association – Mr. A. Billings
- c) Blaby Branch of the Local Association of Parish Councils – Mrs. J. Weatherstone and Mr. A. Collis-Smith
- d) Countesthorpe Information Centre-Management Committee – Mr. D. Jennings
- e) Countesthorpe College/Sports refurbishment scheme/Community Council – Mr. K. Mason
- f) Police Liaison – Mrs. Y. Bennett, Mrs. J. Weatherstone, Mr. G. Gamble, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Mr. D. Ball and Mrs. K. Yates
- g) 'A' Better Countesthorpe – Chairman to co-opt should the group start up
- h) WORKING PARTIES

Planning – Mr. I. Paterson, Mr. G. Gamble, Mr. K. Mason, Mrs. K. Yates, Mrs. M. Baum, Mr. A. Clifford, Mrs. J. Jennings, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Rev. M. Gillespie

Maintenance of Council Properties – Mr. F.E. Duffield, Mr. D. Duffield, Mr. T. Blood, Mr. A. Collis-Smith, Mr. K. Mason and Mr. D. Ball.

Best Kept Village/Front Garden Competition - Mrs. C. James, Mrs. J. Weatherstone, Mr. D. Ball, Mrs. M. Baum, Mr. T. Blood and Mr. A. Clifford.

Finance - Mr. G. Gamble, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Mr. M. Smith, Mr. I. Paterson, Mr. D. Duffield, Mr. K. Mason and Rev. M. Gillespie

Parish Plan

Mr. A. Collis-Smith, Rev. M. Gillespie, Mr. K. Mason, Mr. I. Paterson, Mr. M. Smith

Policy & Resources The Chairman of all working parties + the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Chairman's Reception - The Chairman, Mr. I. Paterson, Mrs. C. James, Mr. D Ball and Mr. F.E. Duffield

Tree Warden – Mrs. C. James

Footpath Warden – Mr. A. Collis-Smith

Street Lighting Warden – Mr. D. Jennings

COMMITTEES:

Village Hall Management Committee – Mr. G. Gamble, Mr. K. Mason, Mr. I. Paterson, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Mr. T. Blood, Mr. D. Ball and Mrs. M. Baum.

DISCIPLINARY – Chairman + Five members of the Parish Council

APPEALS – Vice-Chairman + Five members of the Parish Council

The Chairman is ex-officio on all Working Parties and Committees.

2005/90. TO ARRANGE DATES, TIMES & VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. D. Jennings proposed seconded by Mrs. C. James that meetings should be held in the Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month and start at 7.30pm. This was unanimously resolved.

2006/91. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 13th April 2006 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2006/92. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Chairman referred to a letter he had received from the Housing Operations Manager, Blaby District Council:

- “With reference to the trees at Brook Court, I would assure you that you, other Ward Members and the Parish Council will be kept abreast of the issues and progress of the investigation. Unfortunately however, due to recruitment issues within the Environmental Health Service, there will be a delay in progressing this issue within the next few weeks”.

- “Thank you for the information relating to the ownership of Glebe Drive. I have sent the details to the Legal and Administration and Financial Services divisions to ask for their assistance in clarifying the ownership or other such arrangements that apply to Glebe Drive”.

2006/93. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES

- Leics. Fire & Rescue Service Plan 2006 – 2009
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister – Procedures for making, confirming & enforcing by-laws
- EMDA – News magazine
- Blaby District Council – Ethical Governance Review Report 2006
- CPRE – Outlook newsletter
- Highways Agency M1 junction 21 M/69/A5460 Leicester £2.8m scheme to cut congestion and boost safety
- Leics. County Council – Consultation on Leics. Draft Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2006 – Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Leics. Local Access Forum – Newsletter

Blaby District Council – Press releases

- From Dawn to Dusk – Guided walks offer something for all
- Planners continue work on future development consultation period starts
- £1m for improvements at Leisure Centre

2006/94. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Inspector C. Brown at the Leicestershire Constabulary which stated that her letter addressed to the Chief Constable re lack of police cover in Countesthorpe, was being passed on to Inspector M. Martin head of Blaby local policing unit as he was responsible for policing services in the Blaby area.

The Chairman felt that this matter was urgent and a Police Liaison meeting should be called. The Chairman also stated that the area covered by the local beat officer was far too large.

Other items to be raised at the meeting are parking around Main Street and Peatling Road.

2006/95. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mr. K. Mason reported on the following:

Planning Appeal – 8 Springwell Drive – No comments were made therefore the comments made on the original application will be sent to the Inspectorate by Blaby District Council.

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

Location: 7 The Square – Cutting down of two trees – not protected by a Tree Preservation Order but are situated in Countesthorpe Conservation Area.

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0601691 PX 2.3.2006	11 The Rowans	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0601781 PY 3.3.06	29 Rosebank Road	- ditto -
0602051 VX 10.3.06	Land adj. to 11 Willoughby Road	- ditto -
0602211 PX 15.3.06	29 Winchester Road	- ditto -
0602201 PX 15.3.06	18 Linden Avenue	- ditto -
0601261 PX 16.2.06	8 Laurel Drive	Refusal of Planning Permission

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0603291 PX	Countesthorpe Bowling Club, 46 Station Road	Erection of replacement porch to side of clubhouse building	No observations
0603611 PX	2 Church Street	Single storey front extension to form porch and erection of boundary wall & pillars to a maximum height of 3.2 metres	Information is required re proposed height of boundary wall as well as materials to be used as the wall appears to be overpowering. The site is in a conservation area.
0603771 PX	18 Heather Way	First floor & two storey side extension	No observations
0604021 PX	77 Winchester Road	Pitched roof to existing two storey & flat roofed side extension	No observations
Leics. C.C.	Soars Lodge Farm, Foston	Proposed extension of existing green waste composting facility	No observations

The following reports have been received:

Oadby & Wigston Borough Council – Sustainability Development Plan Document. Appraisal of the Core Strategy

Blaby District Council - Sustainability Appraisal of the Draft Core Strategy (Preferred Options)

Coventry Airport – Proposals for the revision of Noise Preferential Routes/Standard Departure Routes Extension of Consultation Period.

These documents will be retained in the office for inspection by Councillors.

2006/96. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES

Mr. D. Ball reported on a working party meeting held on Monday 10th April, 2006

A request has been made from the resident of 10 The Hawthorns to have a tree lopped that overhangs his property from land owned by the Parish Council in Larchwood. The working party recommended that the tree surgeon from Leicestershire County Council be consulted. This was resolved.

A quotation for a submersible pump for the proposed water butt is to be sought.

A request for a bus shelter has been received for the stop opposite the Village Hall. This was considered by the working party but it was felt that the footpath is too narrow.

Quotations for the repair of the fence at Leysland open space have been received. In the first instance the Clerk has been asked to ascertain from ROSPA and the Playing Fields Association if it is legally required to enclose the play equipment with fencing.

A quotation has been received for electrical work in the Churchyard for Christmas tree lights. Mr. Mason stated that he would speak to the contractor with regard to the addition of a weather proof box.

Cemetery – A request has been received for a small vase to be placed on a cremation plot and bulbs planted. The working party were happy with this but would only like to see dwarf bulbs.

Cemetery Rose Beds:

There are two beds with Queen Elizabeth roses planted. Five are missing and need to be replaced.

Dr. Hofflers rose bed – all the roses need replacing, eight in total. It was recommended that a variety containing the name of doctor be purchased.

The paths in the cemetery are in need of weed spraying, the groundsman was to be asked if he would carry out this duty forthwith.

The verges along Winchester Road where the footpath has been replaced need to be returned to lawn standard. This request will be forwarded to County Highways.

St. Andrew's Parochial Church Council held their annual meeting last week and wishes to thank the Parish Council for looking after the churchyard.

2006/07. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Twinning Association – Mr. A. Billings informed the Council that 43 visitors from Menecy will be visiting the village this month. 13 Countesthorpe residents visited Renningen in April.

Finance working party Auditors Report

The working party recommended that allowances be made in the estimates for 2007/2008 to repay the small loan that was taken out to purchase land at the cemetery. At the present time £902.38 is owing.

The insurance policies for the Village Hall and Parish Council were reviewed. The following recommendations were made:

Countesthorpe Parish Council – all items under £300 to be removed from the policy due to the excess now being £250.

To ascertain how much extra premium would be required to increase the fidelity guarantee from £10,000 to £150,000 as per the comments of the Auditor (the recommended sum is half the precept plus the balances – this would work out at roughly £150,000 cover).

To increase the age of councillors, employees and volunteers from 80 to 85 years.

Village Hall

To ask why the premium for fidelity cover of £10,000 is £607.57 as opposed to £33 charged for the Parish Council cover.

Office Computers

The Norton anti virus cover has expired. Rev. M. Gillespie has volunteered to download the software and pay the account with his credit card.

The work to be carried out by goIt on the computer system as per quotation will be carried out as soon as the end of year returns have been completed.

Allowances are to be made in next years estimates towards the renewal of the office computers in 1 or 2 years time.

Grant Aid

An application has been received from the U3A for grant aid. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance working party.

A Policy and Resources working party meeting has been arranged for Thursday 18th May at 7.30 pm in the Parish office to discuss Performance & Personal Development Review for staff.

Best Kept Front Garden

A working party meeting has been arranged for 7th June at 7.30 pm. in the Parish Office.

2006/98. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£
Blaby District Council – Rates	203.00
Scottish & Newcastle UK – beers	565.34
Tranter – New fire extinguisher	62.25
BT – Bar ‘phone	61.60
BOC – rental gas	9.87
ESPO – cleaning materials	190.12
PSS alarm activation	81.08
David Clarke – Electrical contractor	56.40
Powergen – electricity	483.51
ADT – maintenance of CCTV	159.69
C.J. Wade – supply and fit kitchen worktop	222.00
C’thorpe Parish Council – vat portion ¼ ending March	353.91
Waverley TBS – wines (lost cheque)	187.67

Salaries for February 2006:

Bar Manager, Cleaners x 2	704.76
Countesthorpe Parish Council – tax returns/pensions/caretakers salary	392.66

Refund of Deposits

B. Harding – 7.5.06	50.00
Blaby Meridian Rotary Club – cancellation – 12.5.06	100.00
Charlottes Challenge Appeal Fund – 13.5.06	150.00
C. Tilley – 20.5.06	150.00
CAFC – 26.5.06	150.00
C’thorpe Twinning Association – 27.5.06	150.00
C’thorpe Judo Club – 2.6.06	50.00
U3A – 2.6.06	150.00

2006/99. PARISH PLAN

A meeting took place between members of the Parish Plan working party, Mrs. P. Gould, Blaby District Council, Mr. A. Simmonds, Leicestershire County Council and

Ms. V. Bowers, Leicestershire Rural Community Council to discuss the way forward for the Plan. Copies of the plan are being circulated to the relevant bodies within Blaby District Council, Leicestershire County Council and the Rural Community Council by their representatives at the meeting. Hopefully a public meeting will be arranged for September to discuss traffic, speeding and policing in the village.

Rev. M. Gillespie reported that the website events calendar is up and running. Parishioners are invited to contribute to this page: countesthorpeparishcouncil.co.uk. – Events Calendar – A good way of advertising your organisations forthcoming events.

2006/100. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE

Mr. A. Clifford reported that the youth café was now in operation. A small group of young people are being made responsible for the activities within the hall. Mr. A. Clifford stated that he believed a request for grant aid would be made in the near future. He also stated that his department would be able to match whatever funding the Parish Council gave. Before the grant is given the Council need to see what the money is required for. Therefore it was suggested that the young people themselves make a ‘wish list’ and present it to the Council.

2006/101. DISUSED RAILWAY – COUNTSTHORPE TO HOSPITAL LANE – UPDATE FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that Mrs. P. Gould Blaby District Council had been informed by the agents for this land that the sale of the railway line was not negotiable at the present time.

It was resolved to remove this item from future agendas unless there is any relevant information thereon to report.

2006/102. TOILETS CENTRAL STREET – UPDATE BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Clerk reported that she had received an e mail from Blaby District Council stating that the toilets in Central Street had been discussed at a meeting held at Blaby District on Tuesday 9th May 2006. It had been decided that the land would be sold. The Parish Council would be given first refusal.

A lengthy discussion ensued with regard to the use of the land.

It was resolved to approach Blaby District Council to see if the Parish Council can negotiate for the purchase of this land providing that the terms and conditions are appropriate. Mr. M. Smith proposed that an article be placed in a future Herald advising residents about future plans.

2006/103. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – ANNUAL HIGHWAY INSPECTION

A routine annual highways inspection is to be undertaken within the Parish during June.

Road markings at the junction of Penfold Drive and Gwendoline Drive were suggested.

2006/104. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£
C'thorpe Parish Council – Wages	7958.57
J. Adcock – Postages	30.08
Clerks & Councils Direct – annual subscription	9.00
ABC Motors – Petrol/oil	50.00
C'thorpe College – summer play scheme grant aid (section 137)	100.00
Open Space Society – annual subscription	30.00
B. Telecom	170.00
Allianz Cornhill – annual premium	3500.26
M. Gillespie – Norton Anti Virus	71.26
ESPO – Stationery; bench for cemetery (paid for by parishioner)	323.90

2006/105. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Clerk reported on the following:

Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Structure plan – explanatory memorandum and written statement. Copy is available in the office or on the website at: <http://www.leics.gov.uk.structureplan> .

Leicester and Leicestershire Local Transport Day: Tuesday 6th June 2006.

Leicestershire County Council - Consultation on proposals to develop day services for disabled people – the consultation period has been extended until the end of May.

Harborough District Council – Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation is available to view on line at www.harboroughonline.co.uk/consultation.

The Chairman presented Mr. A. Collis-Smith with a certificate from Mrs. K. Johnston, Blaby District Council re attending a course for instruction on the Code of Conduct.

Meeting closed at 9 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2006