

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 12th APRIL 2007 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT: -

Chairman &
County Councillor D. Jennings

Mesdames M. Baum, C. James, J. Jennings, J. Weatherstone

Messrs: Mr. D. Ball, Mr. A. Billings, Mr. T. Blood,
Mr. D. Duffield, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Rev. M. Gillespie,
Mr. A. Collis- Smith, Mr. K. Mason, Mr. I. Paterson

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

There were 8 members of the public present.

2007/65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mr. M. Smith, Mr. A. Clifford, Mr. G. Gamble and Mrs. K. Yates.

2007/66. DISCLOSURES 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)
Mrs. J. Weatherstone (Planning - Blaby District Council)
Mr. F.E. Duffield (Planning – Blaby District Council)

Village Hall:

Mr. D. Jennings – Chairman of Committee for Registration of Civil Weddings (L.C.C.)

Developing Support Accommodation for Older People

Mr. D. Jennings – Blaby District Council

Development of Community Forums

Mrs. J. Weatherstone – Blaby District Council
Mr. D. Jennings – Blaby District Council

2007/67. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 8th March 2007 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2007/68. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Chairman asked if anyone wished to make comments on the Annual Parish Meeting Minutes which had been circulated. No comments were recorded. The Minutes would be signed at the next Annual Parish Meeting to be held in March 2008.

2007/69. POLICE MATTERS

PC Butterworth has been transferred to Hinckley Police Station. WPC B. Morris has now been appointed to Countesthorpe.

As there is now a new Police Constable it was felt that a Police Liaison meeting should be called as soon as possible to discuss outstanding issues in the village. The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting.

2007/70. DISPERSAL ORDERS

No action needs to be taken at present.

2007/71. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- Environment Agency – FOCUS
- Countryside Voice
- EMDA – News Magazine
- Stepping Stones Countryside Management Project AGM 18.4.2007
- Leics. Fire & Rescue Service – ‘Our Plan’ 2007-2010 now on website
- CPRE – Fieldwork Magazine
- BBC Radio Leicester – The Big Debate
- Draft East Midlands Regional Plan – Public Examination

Blaby District Council

- Report re Active ASB Cases

Blaby District Council Press Releases

- ‘Go Green @ Glebe’ 14/15 April 2007
- Disability Sports Fund Day
- Neighbours to meet in football tournament
- Blaby Farmers Market moves to new location
- Funding Package for Blaby Town Centre
- Newsletter – Scrutiny News

2007/72. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mrs. J. Jennings reported on the following:-

Planning Permission

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0700891 PX 1.2.2007	31 Cosby Road	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0700831 PX 1.2.2007	17 Cherry Tree Close	- ditto -
0700571 PX 19.1.2007	39 Station Road	- ditto -

Planning Applications

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0702451 PY	5A The Drive	Retention of garage & erection of gates (revised scheme)	No observations
0702171 PX	28 Benskyn Close	Single storey rear extension	No observations
0701801 PX	28 Fir Tree Avenue	Single storey front/side extension	No observations
0701791 PX	40 Linden Farm Drive	Two storey front extension, single storey side extension & rear conservatory	Site visit requested. Adverse effect on neighbours and street scene
0702411 TY	Maple House, Main Street	Works to sycamore tree	Crown reduction by 10% + removal of some of the lateral branches. Recommend a site visit + report from Mr.Kenyon L.C.C.

2007/73. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0702511 PX	29 Westfield Avenue	Two storey front & rear extensions & alterations to roof	No observations

2007/74. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES – REPORT FROM
THE WORKING PARTY MONTHLY MEETING

Mr. D. Ball reported on a working party meeting held on Wednesday 11th April 2007 where the following was discussed:

The seat outside of the post office is in a poor state of repair and has been removed for safety reasons. It has been taken to the workshop for repairs and will be replaced when it is ready for use.

The Paddock fence along Station Road is in a poor state of repair and is vandalised regularly. Temporary repairs are carried out but it is becoming more unsightly and is in need of being totally replaced. Graffiti on bus shelters belonging to Blaby District are also a problem. These have been reported to Blaby District Council on numerous occasions. It was resolved to arrange a site visit to discuss these matters.

The cycle fence along Winchester Road which belongs to Leicestershire County Council is also in a poor state of repair. After complaints the broken spars were removed but never replaced. Graffiti on bus shelters belonging to Leicestershire County Council are also a major problem. It was again felt that a site meeting to discuss these issues should be arranged.

Broadfield Way – Trees on the open space have been inspected by Mr. Kenyon, Leicestershire County Council who made the following recommendations:

The twin stemmed mature Ash growing in the row of Hawthorns near the gable of No. 44 Broadfield Way needs felling on safety grounds as a matter of urgency. A mobile platform will be required. The estimated cost for this work is £895. It was resolved to have this work carried out as soon as possible.

Other works recommended will be carried out later in the year.

Cemetery – A conifer alongside a path in the cemetery was also inspected by Mr. Kenyon and he recommended that this tree be felled as soon as possible. The estimate for this work is £300. It was resolved to have this work carried out as soon as possible.

A letter has been received from a resident requesting the planting of a wood in memory of a deceased relative. After a discussion it was decided to contact the Woodland Trust to see what help and advice they can give in this matter. A letter informing the resident of what actions are being taken will be sent.

An e-mail has been received from a student of Countesthorpe College regarding bus shelters in the village. Mr. D. Jennings stated that he would contact the writer of the e-mails and invite him to a meeting with the working party to discuss the matter.

Spoilbank, The Woodlands – The Parish Council notice board has been vandalised. It has been removed and stored at the Cemetery. This will be inspected to see if repairs can be made or if a new board will have to be made to replace it.

Cemetery – The grass verges in the cemetery have been badly rutted by a skip lorry used by the grave digger. Normally soil is taken away in a trailer thus avoiding this problem. After a discussion it was resolved to inform the grave digger that he must not bring a skip lorry into the cemetery.

The working party would like to see the front car park to the village hall swept on a regular basis. This was resolved.

2007/75. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Finance working party Mr. K. Mason stated that a working party meeting was held prior to the meeting and the following was discussed:

A small loan was taken out to purchase land at the cemetery from the Public Works Loan Board (Loan No. 478624). The Auditor has recommended that this loan be repaid. The outstanding amount if the loan is repaid by the 13th April 2007 will be £889.29 + (£58.24 administration fee) total £947.53. It was resolved to repay this loan.

Applications for grant aid have been received from Action Deafness and ChildLine Midlands & East Anglia – on this occasion no grant aid is recommended. This was resolved.

An application for grant aid from LOROS (The Leicestershire & Rutland Hospice) has been received. As this is a local charity it was recommended that a grant of £250 be made under section 137. This was resolved.

County Councillor

Mr. D. Jennings reported that no changes have been made to ‘on street parking’ within the village.

Mr. Jennings stated that he had received a letter from the Department of Highways, Leicestershire County Council stating that it was proposed to install Advisory School 20mph Zone signs in the region of Greenfield School. Mr. D. Ball and Mr. I. Paterson felt that this was inappropriate as the parked cars do not allow other vehicles to travel above 5 mph along the stretch of road in question.

Mr. Jennings felt that this proposal should have a fair trial.

2007/76. VILLAGE HALL – REPORT THEREOF

The charity coffee morning held once a month on a Wednesday have been very successful, so much so that the noise from the lounge has disturbed the class held in the hall. Due to this the Management Committee decided that this was unfair to the hirer and therefore another morning should be found. A Monday morning has been suggested and the first one will be held on the 14th May. Mr. Paterson stated that he was unavailable on a Monday morning and would therefore be unable to offer his assistance. Mr. Paterson

stated that he had contacted the organisers re change of day/date all except the WI. The Clerk was asked to do this.

2007/77. VILLAGE PLAN

The Clerk read the following letter from Mrs. S. Holmes:

“Reading the Parish Council minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2007 I noticed that the Better Towns Team had handed the Parish the balance of £550.75.

I feel that it might have been better for that money to have been put towards a final planting scheme to enhance the village, rather than new Notice Boards.

Perhaps you will make my feelings known at the next Parish Council meeting”.

Mr. Paterson felt that although other planting schemes had been very successful there were no suitable areas left in the village.

2007/78. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE

There was nothing to report.

2007/79. LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – 3RD MAY 2007

14 nominations for Parish Councillor have been received thus leaving 4 vacancies. These vacancies will be advertised as soon as possible so that co-options can take place at the next Parish Council meeting.

The Chairman wished to thank the four members who were not standing for re-election, Mr. G. Gamble, Mr. A. Billings, Mrs. K. Yates and Mr. D. Duffield for all their hard work and dedication over the years.

Members standing were reminded that they would be required to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting. If anyone is unable to attend the May meeting they should contact the Clerk and make arrangements to sign the Declaration before the meeting.

2007/80. POST OFFICE CLOSURES

A letter received from Postwatch re Post Office Closures was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The contents were noted.

2007/81 COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH SCHEME

The Clerk reported that she had had no response from the parishioner who made the initial enquiry regarding the speed watch project.

2007/82. ECO DAY

Mr. I. Paterson advised the Council that the Village Hall had been booked for the 6th October 2007 to hold an ECO day. A meeting had been held in the Parish Office with a representative from Blaby District Council and a composter adviser. They offered their assistance with the project and recommended various bodies and organisations to contact.

2007/83. OWNERSHIP OF GLEBE DRIVE

Mr. D. Jennings stated that he had attended a meeting with Judith Clayton and Kris Johnston, Blaby District Council to discuss correspondence that had been received from Leicestershire County Council regarding Glebe Drive. The matter is still on going.

2007/84. COUNTSTHORPE CRICKET CLUB – INVITATION TO ATTEND OPEN DAY – SUNDAY 22ND APRIL 2007

An invitation inviting all members to Countesthorpe Cricket Club's open day on 22nd April has been received. The Chairman has also been invited to formally open the new facilities.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that he would be delighted to attend.

2007/85. AMOUNT OF LITTER IN VILLAGE

In response to last month's meeting letters were sent to Countesthorpe College, Leysland High School and Blaby District Council about litter in the village. The following responses have been received:

Blaby District Council

“All of Winchester Road is litter picked once a week every Tuesday, also Linden Avenue and Westfield Avenue are litter picked twice a week which are opposite the college”.

Leysland High School

“As you know from our previous correspondence I do highlight the issue in our newsletter to parents. We do address the matter with pupils throughout our educational programmes, assemblies and with the School Council. Indeed, I will be discussing this issue amongst the more general problems of anti-social behaviour and youth crime when I take assemblies next week. I have also invited Leicestershire Constabulary to lead with two assemblies next week as well to reinforce the messages I'm sure parents and the Parish Council would wish us to promote.

Hopefully with school, home and the community working together we can improve the situation to the satisfaction of all of us”.

Countesthorpe College – No response

2007/86. DEVELOPING SUPPORT ACCOMMODATION FOR OLDER PEOPLE

A consultation document from the Leicestershire Adult Social Care Service was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked if any member wished to make any comments. There were none. The contents of the document were noted.

2007/87. BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL – DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY FORUMS

A document relating to providing an overview of the Leicestershire Together proposal for the implementation of Community Forums across the County was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The contents of which were noted.

2007/88. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	7921.80
J. Adcock – postages	46.04
Chapmans Garden Machinery – Shredder £2085.63 - recoil £5.99	2091.62
Open Spaces Society – annual subs	30.00
British Telecom – internet services	158.62
LRAPLC – annual subs	551.00
Glebe Gardens – roses for cemetery	133.29
goIt – computer programme fault	47.00
B.W. Wilford – Internal Audit	425.00
Blaby District Council – rates cemetery	45.86
L&RPFA – annual subs	15.00
Severn Trent Water – Water cemetery	83.71
Oswin Builders – replacing coping stones St. Andrews Church	111.63
Edge Designs Ltd. – annual technical support – finance package	235.00
ABC – petrol/oil	90.42
Countesthorpe Parish Council (Village Hall Account) VAT ¼ end March 07	409.04
ESPO – stationery	20.91
ICCM – annual subs	65.00
LOROS – Grant Aid (section137)	250.00

2007/89. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Chairman mentioned that he had received a copy of the Internal Audit Report and stated that everything was satisfactory with the Accounts 2006/07. They will be submitted to the Auditor later in the year.

2007/90. CHAIRMAN'S EVENING

The Chairman's evening will be held in the Village Hall on Friday 28th September 2007.

Mr. Jennings thanked all Parish Councillors for the work that they had done over the passed four years, with a special thanks to those members who had not sought re-election.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2007