

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 9th AUGUST 2007 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT: -

Chairman &
County Councillor D. Jennings

Vice Chairman M. Smith

Mesdames G. Farrands, B. Forecast, J. Jennings

Messrs: T. Blood, A. Clifford, F.E. Duffield, K. Mason,
 I. Paterson, B. Smith, A. Collis-Smith

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

There were 9 members of the public present.

The Chairman stated that due to the nature of tonight's meeting public participation would be taken in two parts. The first part would be after Inspector Holyoak's presentation and the second after the presentation by Mr. Wardle, Leicestershire County Council.

2007/154. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mrs. M. Baum, Mrs. C. James, Rev. M. Gillespie, Mr. P. Holdridge, Mr. D. Ball and Mrs. J. Weatherstone.

2007/155. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

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

Item 4 – Presentation – Ian Vears, Leicestershire County Council – Winchester Road Traffic:

Mr. K. Mason - Personal and prejudicial) Due to the fact that they reside on
Mr. A. Collis-Smith – Personal and prejudicial) Winchester Road

Planning Matters:

Mr. D. Jennings (Planning Blaby District Council, Leicestershire County Council)

Mr. F.E. Duffield (Planning – Blaby District Council)

Mr. B. Smith (Land adj. to 10 The Rowans) – Personal and prejudicial. This land backs on to Mr. Smith's garden.

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

2007/156. PRESENTATION – INSPECTOR J. HOLYOAK, BLABY LOCAL POLICING UNIT

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Holyoak to the meeting and invited him to address the Council and members of the public.

Inspector Holyoak apologised for the absence of WPC Barbara Morris and PCSO Adam Hicks but they were dealing with an incident.

Inspector Holyoak stated that he was visiting all the Parish Councils that fell within the Blaby Policing Unit. He explained that his policy was to encourage 'Neighbourhood Policing'. This involved getting the local beat Officer, District and Parish Councils and parishioners working together to improve their community. To report an incident the following ways are available:-

- The Blaby Police Unit situated in Blaby is open from Monday to Friday 10am. – 6pm.
- Telephone 0116 2222222 to speak to a controller
- 0116 2486456 to leave a voice mail message – WPC Morris number 4575
- e-mail address barbara.morris@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk
- Leicestershire Constabulary website www.leics.police.uk
- 999 in an emergency

Crime in Countesthorpe is low compared to other areas. During the month of July there were 12 incidents of recorded crime in Countesthorpe:-

- 1 x attempted burglary
- 2 x theft of motor vehicle
- 1 x theft from motor vehicle
- 3 x damage to motor vehicle
- 2 x theft
- 1 x harassment
- 2 x drugs offences

The Chairman asked members of the public present if they would like to ask any questions:

The following concerns were raised:

Youths were congregating on the Spoilbank again and there was evidence of under aged drinking.

Motor bikes were using Glebe Drive as a race track.

Vehicles parked on pavements.

Inspector Holyoak invited parishioners to speak to him when he left the meeting to give him more details of their concerns.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Holyoak for attending the meeting.

2007/157. PRESENTATION – IAN VEARS, LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman invited Mr. C. Wardle, Senior Engineer, Leicestershire County Council to address the meeting.

Mr. Wardle thanked the Chairman for the invitation to the meeting and welcomed the opportunity to explain the proposed traffic alterations and receive comments thereon.

The 2006-2011 Local Transport Plan allowed works to be carried out in areas that could justify the expenditure. The accident investigation team were aware that there have been a number of personal injury accidents involving school children along Winchester Road in the vicinity of Leysland High School. To address these accidents it is proposed to install a zebra crossing with a set of speed cushions either side of the crossing. The speed cushions are being introduced to ensure acceptable vehicle speeds in the vicinity of the zebra crossing. Improvements to enhance the existing school warning signs are also proposed, this will include school warning signs with yellow borders and flashing amber light units on both approaches to Leysland High School and Countesthorpe Community College.

Two members of the Parish Council live near to the proposed zebra crossing and had intimated prior to the meeting that they would like to comment on the proposals. To do this they had declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item.

The Chairman asked Mr. K. Mason, who has a personal and prejudicial interest if he would like to comment on the proposals. Mr. A. Collis-Smith, who also has a personal and prejudicial interest, left the room.

Mr. Mason made the following comments:

Concern that the crossing was a zebra crossing and not a pelican crossing.

If there is no central refuge there was nothing to stop cars from overtaking

Interest in the fact the speed cushions were being installed instead of speed tables

Mr. Wardle commented on these queries:

A zebra crossing was being installed as opposed to a pelican crossing because of the nature of use e.g. the crossing would be used by children mainly before and after school. The number of children using the crossing at one time would be more than could be safely held in a central reservation thus ruling out a pelican crossing. There would not be consistent use of the crossing therefore the cost of a pelican crossing could not be justified.

Drivers will have sufficient warning that they are approaching a zebra crossing.

There is always a certain amount of noise from any type of speed cushion but it was considered that the 1.6m wide speed cushion would allow larger wheel based vehicles to go between them thus cutting out some impact noise.

Mr. K. Mason left the room and Mr. A. Collis-Smith returned.

Mr. A. Collis-Smith's concerns were as Mr. Mason's; he felt that the proposal for a zebra crossing was fatally flawed. A pelican crossing was the only answer.

Drivers turn left out of Leysland Avenue and only look right. Concern over the radius of the turn and the necessity for bollards.

The Chairman asked Mr. Collis-Smith if he would leave the room so that the rest of the Council could make their comments.

Mr. B. Smith was concerned that the same problems that exists at the Station Road crossing would occur at this site as there are a similar number of accesses onto the road near to the proposed crossing.

Mr. M. Smith was concerned that residents may be disturbed by the beacons. He also felt that a second crossing should be considered near to the gates of Countesthorpe College.

Mr. Wardle stated that L.E.D. lights were now used which produced less spill of light but if there was a problem collars could be fitted. He also agreed that a second crossing would be beneficial and this was now being considered.

Consultations with nearby residents had been carried out and the feed back was very good. Any further comments would be welcome. Final tweaking to the plan would be looked at before a final decision is made but it was felt that the project would go ahead hopefully during the autumn break (October). The construction should take just over one week.

Members all agreed that the proposals were very welcome and they urged phase 2 to proceed as soon as possible.

Mr. K. Mason and Mr. A. Collis-Smith were invited back into the meeting.

2007/158. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 12th July 2007 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2007/159. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY - There were none.

2007/160. POLICE MATTERS – This item was dealt with under minute 2007/156.

2007/161. DISPERSAL ORDERS - No action needs to be taken at present.

2007/162. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Blaby District Council – Annual Report & Performance Plan 2007/08
Citizens Advice Bureau – AGM 12.9.07 @ Blaby District Council
Leics. & Rutland Playing Fields Ass. – Newsletter
Rural Community Council Sports/Young Peoples Funding Scheme 13.9.07 @
Loughborough Road Headquarters
Rural Community Council – Applications to be a Trustee
City & County Neighbourhood Watch Association – Trustees Report
E.M.A. – Community Investment Report 2007
Queens Awards for Enterprise 2007
Leicestershire Matters – Newsletter
E.M.D.A. – Newsletter
Leics. & Rutland Ass. Parish & Local Councils Branch Meeting, Countesthorpe -
22 August 2007

Blaby District Council – Press Releases

Review of Polling Districts & Polling Places
Review of Statement of Licensing Policy – B.D.C.
Get Active Together
Substance Misuse Awareness Session
Stock Transfer – Mobile Unit Visits to Purchases
Drug & Alcohol Response Team – Substance Misuse Awareness Sessions
Have your say about Blaby Town Centre

2007/163. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mrs. J. Jennings reported on the following:-

Planning Permission

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0703441 PX 18.4.2007	38 Reedpool Close	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0705041 PX 7.6.2007	1 Scarborough Close	- ditto -
0703971 PX 4.5.2007	43 Willoughby Road	- ditto -
0704891 PX 4.6.2007	1 Westfield Avenue	- ditto -
0705281 PX 30.7.2007	22 Hallcroft Avenue	- ditto -

Planning Application

Mr. B. Smith who has a personal and prejudicial interest in plan 0706411 TY left the room before this plan was discussed. He returned to the meeting after a decision was made.

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0706411 TY	Land adj. 10 The Rowans	Topping & lopping of 5 no. Ash Trees	The work should be carried out with care due to the proximity of neighbouring properties.
0706321 PX	10 Linden Avenue	Two storey front/side & single storey side/rear extension & conservatory	No observations
0706141 PX	C'thorpe Post Office & former Spar Shop, 69 Station Road	Retention of new flat roof over existing & single storey rear extension & proposed single storey rear extension with external staircase & railings over	Please note & be aware of the drainage problems that have always existed in this area.
0706311 PX	Land rear of 82 Station Road	Internal & external alterations to dwelling approved under planning application 04/12441/PX	No observations
0706231 PX	9 Beechings Close	Single storey front extension & bay window	No observations
0706111 PX	18 New Street	Single storey rear extension	No observations
0706131 PX	21 Springwell Drive	Single storey front extension	No observations
0706571 PX	12 Willoughby Road	Single storey rear extension to form sun room	No observations

2007/164. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0706881 PY	2 Shetland Way	Single storey rear extension to form conservatory	No observations

2007/165. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES – REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY (MONTHLY MEETING)

Mr. A. Collis-Smith reported on a working party meeting held on Monday 6th August 2007 in the cemetery where the following was discussed:

Cemetery Foston Road

Chapel of Rest– The brick work to the chapel is in need attention. It was therefore recommended that a quotation be obtained so that this could be budgeted for next year.

Another bin is needed in the area of the new Garden of Rest.

The paths need to be weeded.

Rose beds need to be mulched.

Hedges need to be trimmed.

A large tree has become uprooted. It was resolved to ask Mr. Kenyon to inspect this tree as well as two other trees in the cemetery where requests have been made to have them lopped.

Dale Acre

Damage has been caused to residents fences in the park by persons unknown. A suggestion was made that the security cameras that are attached to Brook Court could be moved slightly to cover this area. It was resolved to ask Blaby District Council, who are responsible for these cameras, if this could be done.

The Spinney

The wall between the Spinney and Maple Avenue needs to have the ivy and bindweed removed and the area planted with suitable shrubs.

Willoughby Road Playing Fields

The cover to the septic tank adjacent to the changing rooms has still not been properly secured.

The land to the rear of the Cottage Homes

The path to the rear of houses on The Drive is over grown with nettles and brambles. The emergency exit to the Nursery School is non existent. Access to the playing fields is difficult. It is believed that this area of land is owned by Leicestershire County Council and the contact person is Mr. S. Seddons. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr. Seddons with the Councils concerns.

The Clerk made the following reports:

Dog Bins

A letter has been received from Blaby District Council stating that they are considering the Councils request for extra dog bins in the Parish.

New Bus Shelter – The Square

Mr. D. Jennings, Mr. D. Ball and the Clerk met with representatives from Leicestershire County Council to discuss the replacement of the bus shelter at the above site. The bus

shelter would be a partnership venture with the County Council, each paying half towards the cost.

Leicestershire County Council had recommended the D.L.O. to carry out installation of the new shelter and removal of the old shelter. The cost of this would be £2000. After careful consideration it was proposed and resolved that the working party choose a bus shelter from the Queensbury catalogue (the Parish Council had purchased several shelters from this company in the past). The final cost to the Parish Council will be in the region of £2781 - £2908. The Clerk advised that only £2500 was allowed in the budget. It was resolved that the remaining monies be taken out of contingency.

The Bank

Photos of the condition of the pillars to the shops on the Bank were sent to Finemart Ltd. the agents responsible for the property. They have responded by asking for a list of local builders so hopefully repair work will be carried out in the near future.

The Square Gardens

A quotation of £40 + vat has been received for the renewal of the 'No Ball Games' sign. The sign is to be made of white foam board with vinyl lettering and covered with sealed perspex.

It was resolved to accept this quotation.

Cemetery

A request has been received for the erection of a head stone in the cemetery to be installed by the deceased's son. Historically all works carried out in the cemetery have to be done to NAMM specification and carried out by a professional stone mason. It was therefore decided to hold a meeting with the son of the deceased to discuss the matter.

Information has now been received from the Woodland Trust re the possibility of planting a small wood. It was decided to hold a special meeting to discuss this matter further.

2007/166. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Chairman handed out leaflets advertising a 'one-stop' website for voluntary and community sector funding information and advice (www.fundingtoolkit.org).

2007/167. VILLAGE HALL – REPORT THEREOF

Mr. K. Mason reported on a meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee held on Thursday 2nd August, 2007.

An order had been placed for the replacement of the curtain around the stage.

An application for grant aid towards having the rest of the rear car park resurfaced with grass crete is to be sought.

2007/168. PARISH PLAN – REPORT THEREOF

Mr. I. Paterson reported that the web site had been visited on 480 occasions during the month of July.

A meeting has been arranged for the 21st August 2007 at 9.30 in the Village Hall with Mr. Tim Norton to discuss possible improvements to the website.

2007/169. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE - There was nothing to report.

2007/170. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AS PER CODE OF CONDUCT

An e-mail regarding the above had been received from Mrs. K. Johnson a copy of which was been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The content was noted.

2007/171. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	8009.02
J. Adcock – postages	65.81
Oswin Builders – Willoughby Road Car Park	£3113.75
Spinney Footpath	£528.75
B. Telecom – Telephone Office	182.38
Leics. Footpath Association – subscription	5.00
P. Mount (Parcel-line) to deliver cartridge for printer	5.88
Supplies Team – Printer cartridge	187.98
ESPO – 2 pairs boots (groundsmen)	43.48
ABC Motor Carriers Ltd. – petrol/oil	145.21

2007/172. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Clerk read the following letter received from the Vulcan to the Sky Trust:

“In keeping with our desire to remain good neighbours, I am writing to inform you that the Vulcan to the Sky Trust is about to enter a period of aircraft testing at Bruntingthorpe Airfield.

Starting in the week beginning 23rd July, for approximately four weeks, we will be running the Vulcan’s four Rolls-Royce Olympus engines, first on the ground as a prelude to the test flights, and second in the air for the limited set of three or four test flights required. It is envisaged that over this period during normal working hours there will be some 25 hours of low intensity noise and about 10 hours of high intensity noise.

We will make every effort to minimise any nuisance from the noise, but as I'm sure you can imagine some disturbance may be inevitable. To minimise the effects, we will take account of weather, time-of-day and wind directions, plus any other factors that may effect the propagation of the noise created"

The Chairman stated that he was going to rule that the following item be treated as urgent and discussed at this evenings meeting although it had not appeared on the agenda due to the fact that relevant correspondence had only been received on the 6th August 2007

2007/173. LAND AT COUNTESTHORPE PRE-PLANNING APPLICATION CONSULTATION WITH COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

A copy of a letter received from Mr. N. Rawlings, Principal Planner, RPS, Highfield House, 5 Ridgeway, Quinton Business Park, Birmingham, B32 1AF, was circulated to members.

A request was made to the Parish Council to have an informal meeting in order to discuss the possibility of a planning application being submitted to build houses on land off Borrowcup Close.

This proposal was rejected by the Council as any discussions of this nature would be required to be held in public. A letter advising Mr. Rawlings of this fact together with an invitation to the next Parish Council meeting, to be held on Thursday 13th September, would be sent. This item would need to be put on the Agenda and a reply would be required by 5th September.

The Chairman stated that as he was a member of the Planning Committee at Blaby District Council he would be unable to chair this item at the meeting.

Meeting Closed @ 10.05 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated2007