

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTSTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 11th JANUARY 2007 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT: -

Chairman &
County Councillor D. Jennings

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

Messrs: D. Ball, T. Blood, A. Collis-Smith, 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 13 members of the public present.

2007/1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mrs. K. Yates, Mr. D. Duffield, Mr. A. Clifford and Mr. A. Billings.

2007/2. DECLARATIONS 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.)

2007/3. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 14th December 2006 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2007/4. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

A letter received from Dr. M. Thompson, Heritage Countesthorpe & Foston Group was read by the Clerk re preservation of village films. It stated:

‘Barrie Hillyard would be taking the matter forward on behalf of the group and would contact the Parish Office when he had ascertained the best agency to carry the process forward’.

The Clerk read the following letter from the District Engineer, Leicestershire County Council:

Countesthorpe, Foston Road – “Sharks Teeth” Marking

Extending a 30mph speed limit can only be done by either extending the system of street lighting or by making a specific traffic order.

In this case the vehicle speed reading obtained to help justify the proposal for the shark teeth markings indicate that it would be inappropriate to consider extending the 30mph speed limit. Indeed moving the speed limit signs out too far from the more developed area could increase speeds on the road fronting the houses on Foston Road.

In these circumstances there are no proposals to extend or alter the speed limit on Foston Road at this time.

The contents were noted.

2007/5. POLICE MATTERS

There was nothing to report.

2007/6. DISPERSAL ORDERS

Mr. D. Ball stated that the problems with large groups of youths gathering in the village had gone away. He therefore recommended that it was not necessary to ask for a Dispersal Order at this point in time. Members agreed with these sentiments but it was decided to keep this item on the agenda in case a problem arose in the future.

2007/7. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- Leicestershire Together
- International Tree Foundation
- Leicestershire Constabulary
- Leicestershire County Council (Various roads Blaby, Countesthorpe, Glen Parva + Whetstone (Area 2) District of Blaby) Amendment Order No. 1 Order 200

2007/8. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Leicestershire County Council – Proposed erection of 2.4M high paladin wire mesh fence – Countesthorpe Community College, Winchester Road.

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak on this application.

Their spokesperson, Mrs. D. Freer wished the following observations to be taken into consideration:

- The application was similar to one made in 1998 which was refused
- This area is designated as a fire assembly point. A new building has been erected on this site and together with the proposed fence would reduce the area drastically. Concern was also raised about the gates to this area being locked. The college is not only used by students but by all ages of the community .

- The consultation period as well as the number of people consulted was very limited.
- Part of the area is flanked by Grade II listed buildings
- One reason given for the fence was to prevent students from going to the Whetstone Co-op. Very few students use this route they go via the school playing fields. A much shorter route.
- Has a risk assessment been carried out?
- Previous comments made in 1998 still stand, e.g. visually unacceptable, prison style fence not suitable for a village school etc.
- The ditch and hedge which was constructed in 1998 has not been maintained. If this had been done a suitable screen/barrier would now exist.

Mr. G. Anderson of Winchester Road asked the question is the fence to keep people out or is it to keep them in? No trust is being given to students which is not socially helpful.

The Chairman stated that if the County Council does not receive any objections the matter will be dealt with by officers. If anyone wishes to object they should contact Ms. J. Bailey telephone number 0116 265 6225 as soon as possible, the next meeting will be held on the 15th February 2007.

Mrs. Freer asked if the Chairman would accept a petition from residents. He stated that he would and he would take it to County Hall on Tuesday.

Mr. K. Mason felt that if the fence at the bottom of the playing fields was maintained this would stop students leaving the college. The playing fields has been drastically restricted for use by the community outside of school hours.

It was resolved to send the following observations to the County Council:

Access to facilities would be denied to the community.

Health and Safety concerns.

Visually the fence is considered unacceptable especially as it is situated on one of the main routes into the village.

When put to the vote this was unanimously resolved. The Chairman, Mr. D. Jennings did not vote.

Proposed telecommunications development at Axe and Square public house, 22 Wigston Street, Countesthorpe.

The Chairman read a letter from White, Young, Green, Consultants – an extract follows:

“We would like to introduce ourselves as planning consultants working on behalf of Hutchison 3G UK (HG3) who trade as “3”. 3 is building a new telecommunications network to support third generation handsets and services across the country. As such, they are in the process of securing a suitable site in the Countesthorpe area for a new mobile radio base station and have identified the above location as a potential site. The

purpose of this letter is to inform you, in your capacity as Parish Council for this particular area, of our proposals and to invite comments”.

The landlord of the Axe and Square contacted the Chairman stating that he was unaware that an application was being proposed and would contact the owners Punch Taverns about this as he certainly would not be in favour of a telecommunications mast being erected on the site.

This application has now been withdrawn by Punch Taverns.

Mrs. J. Jennings reported on the following:-

Planning Permission/Refusal

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0609181 PX 2 nd October 2006	28 Springwell Drive	Refusal of Planning Permission

Planning Applications

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0611161 PX	2 Fair Isle Way	First floor extension, single storey front & side extensions, rear conservatory and new roofs	No observations
0611301 PX	3 Skye Way	Revised Scheme Single storey rear extension	No observations
0611411 VY	Land to rear of 1 Austrey Lane	Variation of condition 4 of planning permission 0605001 PY to allow the continued use of the private drive serving Maple House & Orchard House off Main St.	No observations

2007/9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED -

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0611541 PY	Land to East of Willoughby Rd. Whetstone (Opp. Vehicular access to Whetstone Gorse East)	Temporary use of agricultural land for use by touring caravans & in ass. with organised events. Max 28 days per year.	Concern over the amount of traffic this would generate

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0700011 PX	39 Linden Avenue	First floor rear extension	No observations
0700061 PX	108 Rosebank Road	Single storey side & rear ext., rear conservatory & pitched roof to side	No observations

2007/10. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES

At the monthly meeting of the Working Party which was held on Monday 8th January 2007 the following was reported:-

Mrs. H. Shultka attending the working party meeting to discuss a further three names being added to the war memorial. It was agreed in principle that these names should be added. Mrs. Shultka agreed to keep the working party aware of her further investigations. No further action is required at this point in time.

The Clerk reported that she had arranged for the Christmas tree lights in the churchyard to be taken down and that this work had been carried out.

Requests for items to be included in the 2007/08 budget had been noted.

The working party recommended that £700 be spent on summer bedding plants again this year. This was resolved. The working party wished to meet with a representative from Plantscape to discuss the colour scheme and the standard of hanging baskets.

The ground around the newly planted hedge at Willoughby Road needs to be weeded and it was recommended that covers around the plants be left for another twelve months.

The Clerk reported that the repairs had been made to the concrete paths in the Churchyard.

Spinney – The pathways are in need of topping up with Bredon Gravel. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for this work.

2007/11. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Finance working party

Mr. K. Mason reminded members that there would be a working party to discuss the budget on Tuesday 16th January and a full Council meeting on Thursday 25th February.

The following letter was received from Countesthorpe College:

Summer Playscheme 2006

May we thank you for your offer to cover any deficit we may have had on the above playscheme. Thankfully we were able to break even this year due to more children enrolling than previously expected.

However, we do hope to run the Playscheme again next summer and would like the Council to consider helping with funding if at all possible.

This year's scheme was very popular with children between the ages of 5 – 13 years – activities offered were arts and crafts based and a variety of sporting activities.

It was resolved to offer to cover any deficit up to £100.

2007/12. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

Mr. G. Gamble reported that he had visited Blaby District Council with Mr. I. Paterson and Mrs. J. Adcock re variations to the Entertainment Licence for the Village Hall. An application to hold plays, films, and indoor sports events is being applied for. An advertisement will need to be placed in the Herald.

A temporary events notice has been obtained by Active Arts for one of their event, Spaghetti Opera, which is being held in February.

The following accounts were passed for payment

	£
J. Jeffcott – Tea towel holders/pump	6.23
S. Wharton – To plumb in dishwasher	175.00
J. Maynard – Stock taker	70.00
Valmo - - Light bulbs	52.88
BOC – Gas bar	9.76
C.J. Wade – refit/adjust double doors from lounge into hall + Supply & fit double glazed unit to roof light	142.00
T.N. Gardner – to fit switch for dishwasher	86.25
Scottish & Newcastle UK – Beers	434.79
Waverley TBS – wines/spirits	227.42

Salaries for January 2007:

Bar Manager, Cleaner x 2	630.30
Countesthorpe Parish Council – tax returns/pensions/caretakers salary	375.12

Refund of Deposits

Miss P. Noon – 21.1.07	50.00
Rotary Club of Blaby – 26.1.07	150.00
Waitrose Social Club – 27.1.07	150.00

2007/13. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report.

2007/14. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE

There was nothing to report.

2007/15. LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF GLEBE DRIVE

Further correspondences has been received by the Chairman from Blaby District Council regarding the ownership of Glebe Drive. The following is an extract from one of the letters:

- It is not always possible to establish land ownership despite making enquiries.
- The documents relating to the land now owned by the Council do not go back further than 1919 when a statutory declaration was sworn because no deeds were to be found at that time.
- The Council's deeds indicate that the land was bought with the benefit of the right to pass and re-pass over along the road (known as Glebe Drive). Therefore, the land is not in our ownership.
- There are no rights of maintenance contained within the deeds. Therefore the Council is under no obligation to maintain.
- The next matter to consider is whether there is statute or other documentation which can assist with maintenance issues.
 - Statute – the Blaby District Council is not a highway authority and the road is not adopted, therefore, statute cannot assist in this issue.
 - Other documents – there are no other documents which will assist with the maintenance responsibility on this matter. Therefore, the Council is under no obligation to maintain Glebe Drive.

I understand that the caravan plot can be accessed by an adopted road known as Bassett Avenue. There is no necessity therefore for access over an unadopted road.

However, if you would wish to see a proposal for the road know as Glebe Drive to be maintained by Blaby District Council, a full report will have to be prepared which would include the Council's statutory powers for undertaking such works. Such an approach needs to be considered carefully as it could set a precedent for many of the other unadopted accesses within Blaby District's area and may have significant budget implications over time.

2007/16. PARKING DE-RESTRICTION

The Chairman reported that shortly the responsibility for parking restrictions would be that of Local Councils and not the Police. The whole process of restrictions in Leicestershire will have to be re-newed which will have great cost implications as well as it being time consuming.

There are two major concerns in Countesthorpe, one being the parking on Peatling Road. At this point the Clerk handed over the following letter received from Leicestershire County Council re parking problems in Peatling Road:

“The traffic management team has investigated this matter fully and has carried consultations with the Police to discuss the measures available to this problem.

As you will be fully aware the topography of this road and the lack of off-street parking available does cause parking problems, which in turn forces through traffic to pass on the other side of the carriageway.

Due to the lack of off-street parking these concerns are not easily rectified and measures available are very few, it is unlikely that double yellow lines would be favourable in this location. Therefore it has been agreed by the traffic management team and the Police that a bend warning sign with a supplementary plate saying ‘oncoming traffic in the middle of the road’ located in both directions would be positive measures to implement”.

The traffic management team have also been asked to look into the problem outside of the school on Gwendoline Drive.

2007/17. BUS SERVICES WITHIN THE VILLAGE

The Clerk reported that she had written to Arriva once again re problems with the 85 bus service going down Hospital Lane and thus missing the village completely. An acknowledgement has been received stating that a full reply to complaints will be forwarded when investigations into this matter have been completed.

2007/18. AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS 2005/2006

The Clerk reported that Hacker Young Accountants had returned and accepted the 2005/2006 accounts of Countesthorpe Parish Council with no comment.

A notice will be placed in the Herald recording this fact.

2007/19. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment

	£
T.F. Bell Group – Insurance for Pickup truck	717.20
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	7941.04
J. Adcock – Postages	22.68
B. Telecom – Internet Services	158.62
Green Wave Technology Ltd. – Annual renewal of web-site	352.50
Parochial Church Council of C’thorpe – Electricity for flood lighting	55.59
Hacker Young – Audit of accounts 2005/2006	881.25
Oswin Builders – Christmas tree lights – St. Andrews churchyard	968.20
Chapmans – Cable for mower	10.87
Canon – photocopying	38.78
International Tree Foundation – annual subs	25.00
C.J. Wade – New kitchen cupboards for Youth (Section 137)	345.00
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Village Hall wine/soft drinks	21.50
D. Dalby – Sign writing for Chairman’s board	25.00

2007/20. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Information regarding **Member Code of Conduct – Revised Code** has been circulated to all members.

Postal addresses, Regent Road – a plan detailing all the residential and commercial properties within the road has been received from Blaby District Council.

Meeting closed @ 8.55 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2007