

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTRESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTRESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 14th JUNE 2007 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT: -

Chairman &
County Councillor D. Jennings

Vice Chairman M. Smith

Mesdames M. Baum, G. Farrands, B. Forecast, C. James, J. Jennings,

Messrs: D. Ball, T. Blood, A. Collis- Smith, F.E. Duffield,
Rev. M. Gillespie, P. Holdridge, K. Mason, B. Smith

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

There were 7 members of the public present.

2007/114. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mr. I. Paterson, Mr. A. Clifford and Mrs. J. Weatherstone.

2007/115. 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)

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

Village Hall:

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

Mr. F.E. Duffield – Licensing Committee Blaby District Council.

2007/116. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 10th May 2007 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2007/117. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY There were none.

2007/118. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that she had received a communication from Blaby District Council whereby Greenfield Primary School had requested a Mosquito assessment but this had been declined.

The Clerk reported that she had made numerous attempts to arrange a Police Liaison meeting but had been unsuccessful. WPC Morris will be returning to the village in the very near future so hopefully a meeting can be arranged.

2007/119. DISPERSAL ORDERS

No action needs to be taken at present.

2007/120. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- Village Voice Magazine
- Fieldwork – Campaign to Protect Rural England
- Leicestershire Matters – Newsletter
- Leics. County Council – School Travel Plan News
- City & County Neighbourhood Watch – AGM
- Leics. & Rutland Playing Field Association – AGM
- Environment Agency Regional Spatial Strategy
- Leics. & Rutland Ass. of Parish & Local Councils – County Secretaries Report
- Leicester City Council – Local Transport Day – 3rd July 2007

Blaby District Council

- Affordable Warmth Strategy
- Corporate Planning (Sustainable Community Strategy)
- Awards for Outstanding Achievement 2007

Blaby District Council Press Releases

- New Parking Attendants on Patrol
- Glen Parva Woodland Sculpture Project
- Arts Festival Hits Blaby, Oadby & Wigston
- Energy Efficiency Survey

2007/121. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mrs. J. Jennings reported on the following:-

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 – Notification of decision in respect of proposed work to tree – Maple House, Main Street – Removal of specified side stems and an overall crown reduction of 20% to one multi-stemmed Sycamore Tree.

Tree Preservation Order 2007 (Blaby District Council) A tree preservation order under the Town & Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order) Regulations 1999 was made on 24th May 2007 on trees of whatever species within the area marked A1 on the map relating to 80 Cosby Road, Countesthorpe grid reference 45688 29530.

Planning Permission

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0703411 HY 17.4.07	Former Public Conveniences, Central Street	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0701791 PX 6.3.07	40 Linden Farm Drive	- ditto -
0703581 PX 24.4.07	36 Rosebank Road	- ditto -
0703461 PX 19.4.07	3 Maple Avenue	- ditto -
0702511 PX 24.3.07	29 Westfield Avenue	- ditto -
0702171 PX 17.3.07	28 Benskyn Close	-ditto -
0701431 PX 21.2.07	51 Willoughby Road	- ditto -

Planning Applications

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0704361 PX	12 Judith Drive	First floor side extension	No observations
0703881 PX	8 Springwell Drive	Erection of pitched roof to front elevation	No observations
0703891 OX	Land rear of 13 Willoughby Road	Erection of one detached bungalow and garage (outline)	No observations
0703821 PX	58 Holyrood Drive	Single storey side extension	No observations
0703781 PX	Adjacent 7 The Square	Erection of detached double garage & entrance gates	No observations
0704011 PX	18 Linden Avenue	Revised Scheme – Two storey & rear extension & conversion of garage to habitable room	No observations
0703971 PX	43 Willoughby Road	Two storey & single storey front extension, first floor & single story rear extension, increase in roof height and roof extension incorporating two front elevation dormer windows & extension to chimney	No observations

2007/122. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0704891 PX	1 Westfield Avenue	Two storey side & single storey rear extension	No observations
0704951 OX	Land rear of 37-43 Winchester Road	Erection of 12 No. dwellings & associated vehicular access (outline)	Over development of the site. Access is critical, it is directly opposite Countesthorpe College & there is also a bus lay-by opposite. Increase in the volume of traffic onto an already very busy road Giving planning permission to such a development would set a precedent. Site Visit is requested.

2007/123. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES – REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY MONTHLY MEETING

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

Leysland Play Area – Some fencing needs to be replaced. The roofs on the play equipment will need to be replaced in the autumn.

Leysland Open Space – The dog bins are in a poor state. It was recommended that a request be made to Blaby District Council to have these bins replaced.

Broadfield Way – A large Ash tree has been removed. Further tree surgery is required in the area but this will be carried out in the autumn. A quotation for the work has already been received from Mr. Kenyon, of the Forestry Department at County Hall.

Willoughby Road playing fields – Repairs need to be carried out to the lid to the cess pit which was installed by Countesthorpe Athletic Football Club. The Clerk was asked to write to the football club asking them to carry out this work as soon as possible.

The Spinney, Leicester Road – The Clerk reported that she had received a request from a resident to plant a tree in the Spinney in memory of her late father who lived opposite the Spinney. The species they would like to plant is a Copper Beach. It was resolved to allow a tree to be planted.

St. Andrew’s Church – A letter has been received from the Secretary of the Parochial Church Council thanking the Council and the workforce for maintaining the churchyard so well.

Dale Acre Park – The slide and the roundabout have been vandalised. The Clerk was asked to contact Wicksteed Leisure to obtain a quotation for the to repair the equipment.

Equipment – A new strimmer is required. It was resolved to purchase a strimmer at a cost of £369 + vat.

2007/124. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Best Kept Front Garden Competition Mr. D. Ball stated that Glebe Gardens would again be sponsoring a prize for the competition. A working party meeting will be held on Monday 25th June at 7.30 pm. in the Village Hall.

Footpath Warden Mr. B. Smith felt that a further 3 dog bins should be sited in the following locations:

- Little Plantation Foot path, Station Road
- The entrance to the footpath in The Rowans
- The entrance to the footpath in The Elms

Mr. Smith was informed that no allowances had been made for dog bins in this year’s estimates, but the Council would approach Blaby District Council to see if they could provide any new bins.

Glebe Drive Mr. D. Jennings reported on correspondence that he had received from the Legal Services Manager at Blaby District Council which he considered to be very obstructive. This matter has been reported to the Chief Executive at Blaby District Council.

Parking Enforcement Mr. D. Jennings reported that as from the 2nd July, Leicestershire County Council will be responsible for the enforcement of parking restrictions. Penalty tickets will be issued by parking attendants rather than the police. Parking tickets will be £60 reduced to £30 if paid within 14 days.

Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Parish & Local Councils (Blaby) Branch Mr. A. Collis-Smith reported that he and Mrs. Weatherstone had attended the last meeting. Mr. K. Pegg from Blaby District Council Community Services Department had spoken at the meeting.

2007/125. VILLAGE HALL, REPORT THEREOF

Mr. K. Mason reported that at the Village Hall Management Committee meeting held on Thursday 7th June the following was discussed:

Mr. G. Gamble, who resigned from the Parish Council in May, was co-opted onto the Management Committee. Mr. Gamble was also appointed as Chairman of the Committee.

The accounts for the Village Hall showed a small profit.

Charity Coffee Mornings – A complaint had been received that coffee mornings could no longer be held regularly once a month on a Wednesday.

A lengthy discussion ensued whereby it was agreed that as long as the Charity mornings did not interfere with any paying class that required 'quietness' they could be held on any day. For example the Wednesday Pilates class only takes place during school terms therefore any Wednesday during school holidays is permissible. The classes that are held on Tuesday/Thursday mornings are of a more robust nature therefore the coffee mornings could be held on either of these days. Never had any member of the Management Committee said that the coffee mornings had to be held on Mondays.

The Clerk was instructed to reply to the parishioner and advise her that due to a misunderstanding, the coffee mornings can continue as long as they are arranged around paying classes that require quietness.

It was further resolved that hiring forms had to be completed for every charity morning in order that one individual person could be held responsible for the running thereof.

A new bar manager, Lisa Roe, had been appointed; she is on a 6 months probation period.

The Clerk had been informed that the person who had damaged the car park barriers at the Village Hall was known by the Council's Groundsman. Upon investigation this was found not to be the case.

2007/126. PARISH PLAN – REPORT THEREON

The Rev. M. Gillespie reported that the working party had met last week. The action plan had been reviewed and this was now on the web-site. Photographs of the new councillors had been taken and these would be added to the web-site in the near future. Councillors were urged to look at the web-site as there were a lot of useful links providing valuable information.

It was felt that the Parish Plan working party should now go back to the Policy and Resources working party to re-look at its roll.

It was agreed that a review of the web site was needed. It was therefore resolved to ask Tim Rogers from Greenwave to come along to a meeting to discuss ideas to improve the site.

The Clerk reported that she had once again written to the Post Office asking for a post box on Rosebank Road but to date no reply has been received.

2007/127. ECO DAY

It was recommended that the ECO Day be cancelled as very little response had been received from the organisations/companies contacted. This was resolved.

2007/128. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE – There was nothing to report.

2007/129. BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL – LICENCING APPEAL THE BULLS HEAD MAIN STREET

Mr. F.E. Duffield wished it to be recorded that he took no part in this item.

A letter from Blaby District Council relating to the Licensing Act 2003 – Punch Taverns Plc V Blaby District Council Licensing Appeal, The Bulls Head, 13 Main Street Countesthorpe was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The contents were noted.

Mrs. C. James stated that she and other residents of Main Street had been invited by the owners of the Bulls Head to a coffee morning where they were informed of future plans for the public house. She felt that the owners were making an effort to fit into the community.

2007/130. EXTERNAL AUDIT 2006/2007

The Audit has been called for 31st July 2007.

The Clerk had circulated copies of the final accounts for 2006/07 prior to the meeting for member's perusal. The Chairman duly signed the relevant documents which will now be forwarded to the external auditors Hacker Young.

2007/131. CODE OF CONDUCT

A copy of the Code of Conduct was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

2007/132. OPEN SPACE SOCIETY

An email received from a member of the Open Space Society was circulated to members prior to the meeting. After a discussion it was resolved to send a copy of the email to the Charity Commission asking for advice.

2007/133. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	8000.00
J. Adcock – postages	39.11
Canon Photocopier rental – 1.1.07 – 30.6.07	450.28
B.W. Wilford – Internal audit annual report	125.00

Playsafety Ltd. – ROSPA report	158.63
Leics. County Council – Tree Surgery @ cemetery	276.65
GoIt – supply and installation of anti-virus software	96.29
ESPO – Stationery/bench for cemetery	361.79
ABC Motor Carriers Ltd. - petrol/oil	123.64
Greenfield Primary School – Grant Aid section 137	300.00

2007/134. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Mr. M. Smith declared an interest in this item as a governor of Greenfield Primary School and took no further part in this matter.

The following letter was today received from Greenfield Primary School:

“Countesthorpe Parish Council has over recent years generously given Grant Aid to assist in the cost of keeping the school grounds open during the summer break. The budget continues to remain tight but the Governors are still committed to allowing the local community access to the school grounds.

On behalf of the school I am writing to request your help once again for a contribution of £300 to meet the cost of maintaining this valuable resource.”

It was resolved to give grant aid (section 137) of £300 to Greenfield Primary School to assist in keeping the school grounds open during the summer break.

2007/135. CHAIRMANS EVENING

The Chairman asked if a working party meeting could be arranged.

Meeting closed at 9 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2007