

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTRESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTRESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 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,
J. Weatherstone

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

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

There were 12 members of the public present.

2007/221. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mr. A. Clifford.

2007/222. 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)

Mrs. J. Weatherstone (Planning – Blaby District Council)

Village Hall:

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

Accounts for Payment Village Hall:

K. Mason

2007/223. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 11th October 2007 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record subject to the following:

2007/214 Partial withdrawal of bus service 45 – Mr. E. White, Leader of Leicestershire County Council should read Mr. E. White, Leader of Blaby District Council.

2007/224. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES

Mr. I. Paterson gave mention to the fact that he had contacted Blaby District Council re parking at Brook Court. The problem was passed to 5 different officers for their attention. A reply was received a month later stating that the parking areas belong to the home owners!

2007/225. POLICE MATTERS

1st October - 31st October 2007

During the month of October there were 25 incidents of recorded crime including:

- 9 x Damage
- 3 x Damage to motor vehicle
- 4 x Theft
- 3 x Burglaries of sheds or garages
- 2 x Assault
- 2 x Motor vehicles having been interfered with
- 1 x Kidnapping
- 1 x Dangerous dog incident

A letter from Mr. Holdridge was read to the meeting about the parking in Linden Avenue/Westfield Avenue and Westfield Avenue/Cosby Road and the possibility of having yellow lines. This item will be put on next months agenda for further discussion.

2007/226. DISPERSAL ORDERS - No action needs to be taken at present.

2007/227. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- Legal briefing NALC Parish Polls & Guidance relating to Licensing Act 2003
- October Newsletter – Leics. & Rutland Ass. of Parish & Local Councils
- Blaby District Council – Best Places to Live – Quality of Life Survey
- Blaby District Council – Flood Fair – January 22nd 2008
- Leics. Police Authority Consultation Evening – 14.11. 07
- Leics. County Council – Consultation on Leics. Minerals Development Framework
- Open Space – Autumn magazine
- Neighbourhood Watch – Leicester & Leicestershire
- Carers UK – Carers Rights Day 7th December 2007
- Leics. Fire & Rescue Service – ‘Our Plan’ 2008 – 2011

2007/228. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM NALC WITH REGARD TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Advice notes from NALC were circulated to members re Public Participation.

It was resolved to put this item on next months agenda as Blaby District Council are due to discuss this matter and Councillors will also have more opportunity to read the notes.

2007/229. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mrs. J. Jennings reported on the following:-

Postal addresses – Site adjacent to 7 The Square will be number 9 and the former public conveniences, Central Street will be know as1 for the ground floor and 3 for the first floor.

Uprooting of one Oak tree – 39 The Dales – The description of the application has been amended to:-

Symmetrical crown reduction of 10% to one Oak tree

PLANNING PERMISSION/REFUSAL

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0708131 PX 20.8.2007	14 The Chestnuts	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0708231 PYCS 27.9.2007	7 Leicester Road	- ditto -
0702451 PY 23.3.2007	5A The Drive	- ditto -
0707921 PX 13.8.2007	7 Benskyn Close	- ditto -
0708301 PX 30.8.07	116 Station Road	- ditto -
0708371 PX 3.10.2007	118 Station Road	- ditto -
0708541 PYCS 9.10.2007	110 Rosebank Road	- ditto -
0707481 PX 8.8.2007	28 Springwell Drive	REFUSAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0708691	39A Willoughby Road	Single storey front & rear extensions & addition of gable features to front elevation	No observations
0708541 PYCS	110 Rosebank Road	New pitched roofs to existing flat roofs on front & side	No observations
0704951OX	Amendment to outline plan Land to rear of 37/43 Winchester Road	Erection of 12 No. dwellings & associated vehicular access	The same objections as submitted to B.D.C. on 2 nd July 2007

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0709211 PX	60 Rosebank Road	First floor pitched side/rear extension & pitched roof to front	No observations
0709151 PXCS	36 Cosby Road	Single storey rear extension to form granny annexe	No observations
0709251 PX	5 Poplar Avenue	Part two storey, part single storey extension & single storey side extension	No observations
0709031 PX	The Paddocks Hospital Lane, Blaby	Erection of stable block	No observations
0709041 PY	The Paddocks, Hospital Lane, Blaby	Siting of two twin unit mobile homes on increased yard area (12 metres to 25 metres) – variation of planning permission 05/05/06/1/PY	No observations
0709401 PYCS	1 Main Street	Widening of dropped kerb	No observations
0709411 PXCS	29 Westfield Avenue	Two storey front & rear extensions & alterations to roof (REVISED SCHEME)	No observations

Mrs. Jennings stated that plan number 07/0495/1/OX 37-43 Winchester Road had been discussed at Blaby District Council this afternoon and had been refused.

2007/230. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0710351 PXCS	19 Broomleys	Two storey side extension (including demolition of existing garage)	No observations

Plan 0710051 OX – Land to the north of Borrowcup Close – Residential development of 110 houses with associated landscaping and infrastructure (Outline)

The Clerk reported that this plan arrived after publication of the agenda. As previously discussed an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council has been arranged for the 28th November 2007 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm. to discuss this plan. Blaby District Council has given extra time for this plan to be discussed and observations are now required by 1st December 2007.

The Chairman, Mr. D. Jennings, stated that as he is a member of the Planning Committee at Blaby District Council he would not Chair the meeting as this would preclude him from speaking at Blaby when the plan is discussed by the District Council. The Vice-Chairman Mr. M. Smith gave his apologies as he would be unable to attend this meeting.

The Clerk advised that it would be necessary for a Chairman to be appointed for the meeting.

Mr. Jennings proposed Mr. D. Ball to Chair the meeting. When it was put to the vote this was unanimously resolved.

Mr. K. Mason asked if he would be allowed to speak at the meeting. The Clerk advised him that he would only be able to make comments. This also applied to Mr. A. Collis-Smith and Mrs. G. Farrands.

Blaby Parish Council is holding a meeting to discuss the plans in the Scouts Headquarters on Winchester Road on Wednesday 14th November. Councillors and parishioners will be welcome.

Blaby District Council are holding a public exhibition in the Village Hall on 15th November 2.30 pm. – 7.30 pm. to find out the views of parishioners on ‘Landscape Character Assessment’ – What do you value about your local area?

Further exhibitions are being held in Stoney Stanton Village Hall on the 13th November and Leicester Forest East Parish Hall on the 14th November.

2007/231. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES – REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY (MONTHLY MEETING)

Mr. D. Ball reported on a working party meeting held on Monday 5th November 2007 in the Parish Office where the following was discussed:

An Oak tree had been donated by a resident. As this was a fairly well developed tree it was suggested that it could be planted in Dale Acre to replace one that had been vandalised. The Clerk advised that a metal guard which previously surrounded a tree in The Square garden could be used to protect it.

Retirement Policy

This had been discussed by the working party and the following wording for the policy was agreed:

The normal retirement age for all staff will be 65. Staff wishing to continue to work beyond age 65 may do so, subject to the agreement of the Council, and subject to continued satisfactory health and performance. This will be reviewed annually. Any requests from staff wishing to continue beyond age 65 should be considered and determined by Full Council at least six months beforehand. Satisfactory performance will be confirmed by the normal staff appraisal process. Satisfactory health will be established primarily by reference to the level of absences for health reasons but the Council reserves the right, at any time, to request staff retained beyond the age of 65 to

undergo a medical examination to confirm continued fitness to work. The Council will arrange such examinations at its own expense.

The Vice-Chairman advised that this wording should be checked by a legal adviser to make sure that the Council was following correct procedures.

The policy was accepted in principal subject to legal advice.

Seat outside of the Post Office – The working party recommended that the seat be replaced outside of the post office. In the first instance the Clerk was asked to obtain permission from the Post Master as the seat would be sited on his land and secondly ascertain whether or not the old seat could be refurbished.

Dale Acre Park The Clerk had been asked by the working party to obtain three quotations for a metal bow top fence to be erected in front of a resident's fence near to the footpath with Shetland Way. This fence was being continually vandalised.

It was resolved to give the Clerk and the Chairman of the working party delegated powers to spend up to £1500 on this fence.

Bus Shelters – Leicester Road When the shelters were erected by the County Council provision was made for lighting. This has not been connected. It was therefore resolved to ask the Clerk to write to the County Council to ask if they would consider illuminating the shelters, this would hopefully deter more vandalism.

Star Trak System The Clerk was asked to contact Leicestershire County Council to ascertain when the system was going to be installed.

Winter bedding plants It was resolved to purchase winter bedding plants as per last year from Glebe Gardens.

Seat in The Spinney It is believed that the seat in the Spinney has been damaged by Blaby District Council's mowing machine. It was resolved to write to the District Council about this matter.

2007/232. LACK OF PARKING FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL STREET

No further information has been received.

2007/233. PARISHIONERS REQUEST FOR YOUTH FACILITIES

The Chairman gave permission for a resident to speak about her concerns with lack of facilities for youth in the village.

The resident stated that she and her husband had spoken to the youths that congregate outside of the Village Hall. The youths complained that there was nothing for them to do and they would particularly like a skate board park.

Mr. Mason stated that a few years ago he and a skate board park manufacturer had investigated the possibility of a park being sited within the village. Numerous sites were investigated but none were found to be suitable.

Mr. Mason also stated that the Council gave grant aid to youth groups within the village to help fund their activities. The Village Hall has been opened up for them but this has been unsuccessful and only the Youth Council use the hall now.

Mr. A. Clifford of the Youth & Community Education Section Leicestershire County Council and also a Parish Councillor had stated that he would try and arrange for the 637 bus to visit the village again on a weekly basis.

Mr. Mason suggested that a meeting be set up with the youth leaders in the village, Tammy Ballard, Jane McCormick and Matt Brown. The following Councillors volunteered to attend Mr. D. Ball, Mr. K. Mason and Mr. D. Jennings.

2007/234. PARISH COUNCILS DOCUMENTS FOR MEDIA ARCHIVE

A request has been received from the Heritage Group to have the old village films and records preserved. As Councillors were unsure of what exactly is involved the Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with the Heritage Group. The following Councillors volunteered to attend the meeting: Mr. B. Smith, Mr. I. Paterson, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Mr. K. Mason and Mr. D. Jennings.

2007/235. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

The Chairman gave mention to a Scrutiny Meeting re Sale of Alcohol to Underage Young People to be held on Tuesday 13th November at Blaby & Whetstone Boys Club at 5.30 pm.

2007/236. VILLAGE HALL – REPORT THEREOF

Mr. K. Mason reported on the following:

Alarm Problems have occurred with the alarm contacts on the fire exit double doors. These have now been replaced and the problem resolved.

Mr. Mason stated that he had taken the examination to become the Premises Licence Officer for the Village Hall and had been successful. Papers are now being sent to Blaby District Council to transfer the licence from Mr. Gamble to Mr. Mason.

The Clerk has been looking into the possibility for obtaining grant aid towards resurfacing the remainder of the rear car park with grass crete. Unfortunately she has been unsuccessful to date.

Mr. Mason suggested that perhaps the Village Hall could apply to the Parish Council for an interest free loan. This would be discussed at the next Village Hall meeting before being brought to the Council.

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£
Blaby District Council – Rates	235.00
ESPO – Gas	14.15
MCR Systems – ill rolls	15.28
BOC – Gas for bar	30.66
B Telecom – phone bar	64.48
Waverley TBS – Wines	150.26
Scottish & Newcastle – Beers	885.32
Safetyshop – Out of order signs	28.35
K. Mason – Fees for licensing course	57.00
Powergen – electricity	1217.98
Severn Trent Water – water	422.75
ESPO – cleaning materials/stage valence	317.70
Blaby District Council – fee for transfer of premises supervisor	23.00

Salaries for November 2007:

Bar Manager + cleaner x 2	673.03
Countesthorpe Parish Council – tax returns/pensions/caretakers salary	419.93

Return of Deposits

N. Coulson - 3.11.07	150.00
C'thorpe Judo Club – 10.11.07	50.00
K. Smalley – 10.11.07	150.00
Blaby District Council – 15.11.07	50.00
Mr. Tyers – 17.11.07	150.00
Inner Wheel – 17.11.07	50.00
Mrs. Roberts – 24.11.07	150.00
Wigston Male Voice Choir – 1.12.07	100.00
Mr. Read – 8.12.07	150.00
ESL O/25 Club – 7.12.07	150.00

2007/237. PARISH PLAN – REPORT THEREOF

Rev. M. Gillespie reported that there had been a 20% increase in visits to the web site. The frame work for the new web site should be ready in the next few weeks for inspection.

2007/238. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE

There was nothing to report.

2007/239. PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF BUS SERVICE 45

The Clerk received the following letter from Mr. Tony Kirk, Group Manager, Passenger Transport Unit, Leicestershire County Council:

Partial Withdrawal of Service 45 between Oadby and villages to the South of Leicester to Fosse Park by Centrebus

“Thank you for your letters to both Mr. Holden and Traveline dated 23rd October concerning the changes to service 45.

You may not be aware that this out-of-policy hourly service was originally intended for withdrawal as part of the budget savings process for the County Council 2006/07 but following much local concern and consideration by Scrutiny and then Cabinet the service was to be retained at a two hourly frequency in October 2006; at the same time Centrebus proposed a commercial in-fill service to retain the hourly frequency between school times and for workers in the morning.

Centrebus gave notice to withdraw the commercial journeys after Friday 26th October to leave the originally proposed two-hourly timetable.

Therefore from this date, the service reverted to the timetable as agreed by the original Cabinet decision in September 2006, where it was resolved that given the importance of the service 45 route around the southern edge of Leicester, benefiting students attending Oadby and Wigston Schools, workers at Grove Park and Carlton Park and shoppers at Fosse Park, this route be treated as a special case and retained on a two-hourly basis.

I appreciate that a number of passengers will have been inconvenienced by this change (around 250 passenger journeys are made a day on the service on average) but as with the original thought processes around the suggested withdrawal in 2006 some of the journeys can be made directly on other services such as the Outer Circle or by connection using frequent services.

With the introduction of the countrywide free concession for elderly county residents in November 2006 there will be no additional cost for these passengers but I do recognise that there will be a time penalty”.

The contents were noted.

2007/240. WINCHESTER ROAD, COUNTSTHORPE – PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING WITH SPEED CUSHIONS

The Chairman read the following letter from Mr. C. Wardle, Senior Engineer, Leicestershire County Council:

Countesthorpe, Winchester Road – Proposed Zebra Crossing.

I refer to your letter of the 13th October regarding the potential further improvements to crossing facilities on Winchester Road, Countesthorpe and the Parish Council’s potential for joint funding.

Regarding joint funding, as highway authority we are always willing to explore ways of maximising the value of any capital funding investment. External funding is considered for schemes that are assessed to meet the County Council’s capital programme objectives of:

- Tackling congestion
- Reducing Road casualties
- Improving access to facilities
- Improving Air Quality
- Reducing the impact of Traffic
- Improving road conditions

We have considered the justifications for the provision of a zebra crossing at the existing pedestrian refuge near to Linden Avenue and have presented this to our officer jury, which gained approval for it to be included in a future years capital programme.

The proposals are likely to be similar to those consulted on near to Leysland Avenue and so I would anticipate scheme costs to be in the order of £45,000 subject to detailed design. In 2008/09 there are currently more schemes than funds available. Were support funds to be made available for this scheme prospects of moving forward would be improved. I would ask that the Parish Council if possible indicate the level of financial support they are offering. This offer will then be taken into account in future programme preparations.

Should your parish council wish to pursue this further I can supply details of any ‘form of consent’ required to formalise any agreement.

After a discussion it was proposed that the Council should offer £22,500 towards the construction of the zebra crossing to be paid over 3 years.

2007/241. REPORT OF MEETING WITH THE MONITORING OFFICER BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL 10.10.07

The Clerk apologised as she had reported on this item last month.

2007/242. LANDSCAPE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION

This item had been discussed under Planning.

2007/243. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	8000.00
J. Adcock – postages	29.16
K. Tee Motorcentre – van tyre	41.99
Acro – Safety boots for groundsman	42.24
Glebe Gardens – Roundup	68.82
B. Telecom – phone	188.21
Littlethorpe of Leicester Ltd. – Bus Shelter, The Square	4617.75
Prestige Street Furn. Ltd. – to remove old shelter & erect new shelter	752.00
ESPO – Shredder	188.00
Blaby District Council – grass cutting (25.9.07-10.10.07)	453.90
Blaby District Council – grass cutting (23.10.07 – 1.11.07)	453.90
ABC Motor Carriers Ltd. – Petrol/oil	190.27

2007/244. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Clerk asked members to consider what items they would like to be included in the budget for 2008/09 and let her have them as soon as possible.

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2007