

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

Chairman &
County Councillor D. Jennings

Vice Chairman M. Smith

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

Messrs: D. Ball, T. Blood, A. Clifford, Rev. M. Gillespie,
K. Mason, I. Paterson, B. Smith

Clerk to the Council Mrs. J. Adcock

There were 5 members of the public present.

2007/197. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mrs. B. Forecast, Mr. P. Holdridge, Mr. A. Collis-Smith, Mrs. G. Farrands, Mr. F.E. Duffield and Mrs. P. Mount, Deputy Clerk to the Council.

2007/198. 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)

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.

2007/199. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 13th September 2007 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record subject to the following:-

Page 5440 – Macy to read March

2007/192 – ‘Charity’ to read Charity

2007/200. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Clerk read two letters of thanks from the Reality Youth Project for grant aid the Council had given last month.

2007/201. POLICE MATTERS

a) The Clerk advised that she had received an e mail from WPC Morris. The following 15 incidents of recorded crime were listed:

- 3 x Assault
- 3 x Burglary
- 3 x Damage
- 2 x Theft
- 1 x Indecency
- 3 x Possession of imitation firearm - BB Gun

b) The Clerk reported that Inspector Holyoak had written to explain that he was temporarily leaving his post on 18th October 2007.

c) The Clerk read an e mail from a resident of Station Road complaining about the continued nuisance of youths congregating on the car park of the Village Hall until late at night. It was resolved to forward this to the Police for their attention.

d) Mr. D. Ball reported that one of his neighbours had been having trouble with youths throwing objects at his windows. He had telephoned the police and they had attended almost immediately to his request.

e) Mr. I. Paterson reported that the blue van that was previously mentioned is still parked in front of Brook Court. It was resolved to report this matter to Blaby District Council.

2007/202. DISPERSAL ORDERS - No action needs to be taken at present.

2007/203. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- Leicestershire County Council – Trading Standards Consumer Affairs
- Leicestershire Matters
- Defra – Ways to tackle climate change
- Town & Parish Standard (Standards Board of England)
- Ass. of Parish & Local Councils – Community Forum: Induction Session
- Leicestershire & Rutland Playing Fields Ass. – Playing field – Newsletter

Blaby District Council

- Overview & Scrutiny – Annual Report 2006/2007
- Draft Revised Race Equality Consultation Scheme 2007
- Arts Newsletter – Issue 5

2007/204. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mrs. J. Jennings reported on the following:-

Two letters have been received from Blaby District Council dated 20th September re “Blaby District Council (Land to the rear of 37 to 43 Winchester Road, Countesthorpe)

Tree Preservation Order 2007” and 26th September re “Blaby District Council (52 Springwell Drive, Countesthorpe) Tree Preservation Order 2007”.

The contents were noted.

PLANNING PERMISSION

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0706881 PY 26.07.2007	2 Shetland Way	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0707191PY 3.08.2007	Hill Farm, Hill Lane	- ditto -

PLANNING APPLICATION

Plan No. 0707981 PX – Location Land rear of 7 The Square – Description - Erection of two storey detached dwelling

The following observations were made re the above:

The Parish Council object because it is felt that it is over-development of the site particularly in a conservation area. It is detrimental to the street scene because it will involve the destruction of the environment by having to chop down two lime trees and hedges. Access onto Green Lane is very dangerous as it has become a rat-run in order that drivers may avoid the humps on the main road. A SITE VISIT IS REQUESTED.

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0708301 PX	116 Station Road	Single story rear ext. with new pitched roof to rear & new hipped roof over existing two storey flat roof ext. at side.	No observations
0708231 PYCS	7 Leicester Road	Change of use from former petrol sales kiosk (Use Class Sui Generis) to mortgage company office (Use Class A2)	No observations
0707921 PX	7 Bensdyn Close	Single storey side ext. & erection of 1.8 metre high boundary wall	No observations
0708131 PX	14 The Chestnuts	Single storey side & rear extensions	No observations

Two letters have been received from residents of Borrowcup Close objecting to the proposed new development in this area. The Chairman has visited them and told them that nothing can be done until an application is received.

2007/205. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

Notification of application for works to tree(s) covered by a District Council Tree Preservation Order:

Application No. 07/0788/1/TY – Uprooting of one Oak Tree – 39 The Dales

2007/206. BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN ‘SAVED POLICIES’

The Chairman read a letter from Gary Clark, Blaby District Council advising that there will not be a New Local Plan. He gave special mention to C8 “Temporary Dwellings in the Countryside, Green Wedges and Areas of Separation”.

Members showed their concern with this matter.

2007/207. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES – REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY (MONTHLY MEETING)

Mr. D. Ball reported on a working party meeting held on Monday 8th October 2007 in the Parish Office where the following was discussed:

Dale Acre Park

Complaints have been received about unleashed dogs roaming the park, causing annoyance to small children. It was suggested that a sign be placed on the notice board stating “DOGS TO BE KEPT ON LEAD”. This was resolved.

Cemetery Foston Road

Enquiries have been made about the purchase of land for the possible extension of the burial ground. It was resolved to ask the Clerk to contact the District Valuer asking for a valuation and to acknowledge the letter from the agents of the land owners.

The Forestry Division of Leicestershire County Council have removed the fallen pine tree and carried out pruning work as agreed at last months meeting.

At the last meeting of the Village Hall Management Committee the Clerk asked for permission to put up the following sign:

COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WILL NOT TOLERATE ACTS OF PHYSICAL OR VERBAL AGGRESSION OR DISCRIMINATORY REMARKS DIRECTED TOWARDS ITS STAFF.

ALL STAFF AND PREMISES ARE PROTECTED BY LAW AND APPROPRIATE ACTION WILL BE TAKEN.

It was resolved that signs could be erected in the Parish Office and the bar.

Concern was raised about the ongoing works to the pavement near to the bus stop outside the Axe & Square.

The Clerk advised that she had contacted Mr. Bickley at County Highways who will look into the matter and contact the Clerk.

Christmas Tree Lights

It was resolved to have the Christmas tree lights erected in the trees in the Church yard again this year. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr. G. Mawby the tree surgeon to erect the lights.

Bus Shelter – The Square

Leicestershire County Council has approved the new quotation from Littlethorpe of Leicester Ltd. for the new bus shelter.

Hanging Baskets

A letter thanking the Parish Council for the hanging basket display has been received from Mr. & Mrs. K. Hall.

2007/208. LACK OF PARKING FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL STREET

The Clerk reported that following last months meeting she had written to two residents in Central Street advising them that the matter was being dealt with by Blaby District Council. Further off street parking was available to anyone on the car park to the right of Brook Court.

A letter has been received from Mr. J. Wells, Blaby District Council advising that consideration would be given to the issuing of some parking permits. A copy of this letter had also been sent to the two residents.

The Chairman gave mention to the letter in the Herald from a resident of Central Street and stated that he felt it was very hurtful and unacceptable. Members agreed with this sentiment.

The Chairman also gave mention to a reply he has received from the Deputy Leader of the Council with regard to Civil Parking Enforcement.

2007/209. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

a) The Chairman reported that Blaby District Council was still trying to ascertain ownership of Glebe Drive.

b) The Clerk reported that following last months meeting she had written to the Standards Board fro England for advice on whom to approach for information on the Code of Conduct other than the Local Monitoring Officer. She had also attended a

meeting with the local monitoring officer Mrs. K. Johnston together with the Chairman and Mr. D. Ball. Mrs. Johnston had stated that she felt that it was imperative to hold a meeting as soon as possible with any member of Countesthorpe Parish Council who felt that it was necessary to look elsewhere for advice when it clearly states in the Code that it is the Monitoring Officer of the local authority who should be approached.

The Clerk asked if members would attend such a meeting with her. After a discussion it was resolved to await the reply from the Standards Board for England and then arrange a meeting with Mrs. K. Johnston. The Clerk stated that she would notify Mrs. K. Johnston of this decision.

2007/210. VILLAGE HALL – REPORT THEREOF

Mr. K. Mason reported on the following:

- A new pelmet for the stage had been purchased
- Three roof tiles needed to be replaced as they were cracked
- The Civil Marriage Licence was to be renewed
- A quotation has been obtained for grass-creting the whole of the rear car park. As this was a very costly project - £45 per sq. metre (total £38,000) it was resolved that the Clerk should try and obtain grant aid in the first instance.

2007/211. PARISH PLAN – REPORT THEREOF

Mr. M. Gillespie reported that a meeting had been held with the web-master and various suggestions had been put forward to update the site. In order to put these into operation it would cost just under £600. It was resolved to carry out this work.

The Clerk reported that she had received a letter from Royal Mail dated 20th September 2007 advising that they were going to erect a post box on the green opposite Skye Way. The expected date of delivery would be 10 – 12 weeks.

Members expressed their delight with this news.

2007/212. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE

There was nothing to report.

2007/213. ASB PROBLEMS ON THE WOODLANDS

The Clerk circulated a copy of an e mail to members from a resident of the Woodlands, expressing her dismay at the constant nuisance and the amount of litter dropped by the many youths that congregated in this area. It was resolved to send a copy of this e mail to WPC Morris and Inspector Chell.

The Clerk further reported that today she had spoken to Mr. J. Wells, Environmental Protection Team, Blaby District Council, about the trail of litter dropped daily by school children, particularly at lunch-times, from the shops on Station Road through to Westfield Avenue, Linden Avenue and across the road to the College.

Mr. Wells has advised that his team will maintain a high profile in the area and take the appropriate action and serve fixed penalty notices where necessary.

2007/214. PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF BUS SERVICE 45

The Chairman reported that he had received a letter advising that Bus Service 45 would now only operate once every 2 hours instead of hourly, as the service did not appear to be financially viable. The Chairman stated that he did not agree with this and he felt that the Council should speak up on behalf of the many parishioners who used it.

After a lengthy discussion it was resolved to write to: James Holden, Leicestershire County Council Assistance Director and Centre Bus and advise them that a blanket withdrawal was totally unacceptable. The Council was very concerned with this and would like to know what basis their actions are for doing it. A copy is to be sent to all 11 Councillors, whose area the bus passes through and Mr. E. White, Leader of Leicestershire County Council asking for their support. The Chairman offered to supply the Clerk with all the relevant names.

2007/215. INVITATION TO MEETING RE THE RE-OPENING OF BLABY RAILWAY STATION –

The Clerk circulated copies of a letter from the Clerk at Blaby Parish Council inviting members to attend a meeting at Blaby Scout Headquarters on Wednesday 21st November 2007 at 7.30 pm. to discuss the possibility of the re-opening of Blaby Railway Station.

Mr. K. Mason, Mr. D. Ball and Mrs. M. Baum volunteered to attend.

2007/216. WINCHESTER ROAD, COUNTSTHORPE – PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING WITH SPEED CUSHIONS

The Clerk circulated copies of a letter from Leicestershire County Council re a second zebra crossing on Winchester Road. The contents of the letter were not very optimistic as they did not feel it was a priority.

Mr. M. Smith proposed that a reply be sent stating that it is felt that a 2nd crossing near to Linden Avenue is urgently required due to the amount of school children who travel along this route to and from school. This was resolved. It was further resolved that the County Councillor, Mr. D. Jennings, would make enquiries about the possibility of Countesthorpe Parish Council and Leicestershire County Council sharing the cost of a crossing.

2007/217. VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION OF LAND OWNED BY PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk read the following letter from Dixon Coles & Goddard, Solicitors:-

“I write to confirm that I have now submitted the applications for registration in connection with the parcels of land for which we have been unable to locate the title deeds and at the time of lodging the application I have raised with the Land Registry the

likelihood of them granting us a title based on either adverse possession or loss of the deeds.

Whilst extremely non committal the Land Registry have suggested that any application for registration of open space land based on adverse possession would in their opinion probably fail unless the land was fenced and exclusively used by the Parish Council which we are unlikely to be able to show.

They have however agreed that they may be more inclined to grant title based on Statutory Declaration evidence of deeds having been lost or destroyed.

Whilst I appreciate that the Council has a limited budget it may be that you would wish to consider whether you have anyone within the Council who has actual knowledge of the acquisition of any of the parcels of land for which the deeds are missing and who would be in a position to give a Statutory Declaration confirming to their actual knowledge the Parish Council acquired the land, they have never disposed of it and have remained in possession of the land since purchase.

I shall let you know as the current applications progress but in the meantime perhaps you could give my above comments some thought”.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that he was happy to sign documentation to say that Dale Acre has been ‘owned’ by the Parish Council for at least 50 years to his knowledge.

The Clerk stated that she would relay this information to the solicitor.

2007/218. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	7973.07
J. Adcock – postages	31.64
Blaby District Council – grass cutting	453.90
Wicksteed Leisure – rubber cradle seat	103.99
Dixon Coles & Goddard – Professional fees for registration of land Foston Road cemetery, Spoilbank, Willoughby Rd. playing fields	1147.50
C.S. Platnauer – catering for Chairman’s evening reception	650.00
C’thorpe Parish Council (Village Hall) – wine/juice for Chairman’s evening	60.80
Mrs. D. Elgar – flower arrangements for Chairman’s evening	40.00
Canon – Photocopier rental £225.14 + Charges £41.96	267.10
ABC Motors Ltd. – petrol/oil	100.75
Glebe Gardens – shrubs for Spinney	3.36
Chapman’s Garden Machinery – Strimmer line + parts for hedge trimmer	52.46
BT – internet charges	158.12

2007/219. CHAIRMAN’S EVENING

The Clerk reported that as the Village Hall diary was filling up rapidly for 2008 she had pencilled in Friday 29th September 2008 for the Chairman’s evening. Members agreed with this action.

The Chairman thanked all members for attending this year's event and stated that he felt the evening was very successful.

2007/220. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Clerk reported that she had received a telephone call from a resident in Linden Avenue advising that a Burger van was parking daily and selling burgers/chips to the students. The Clerk had made enquiries of Blaby District Council to ascertain whether it was legitimate or not.

The following letter was received from Mr. P. Birch, Senior Environmental Health Officer:

I understand that one of my colleagues, Xenia Oliver has already spoken to you, but I would like to confirm the legal situation.

This Department has legal powers and duties relating to Food Safety and to Health & Safety, but we have no power to regulate the location or movement of vehicles (whether or not selling food), or to regulate the presence or movement of pedestrians.

The police have powers to deal with vehicles on the public highway, but I regret to say that I am unsure as to the extent of those powers in relation to parked commercial vehicles or trailers, but of course they would be able to advise further. The County Council Highways Department has some powers to deal with vehicles or trailers in lay-byes or on pavements and again, you would need to ask them for details.

The vehicle has been inspected within the last few weeks and, if there are any matters that do not comply with the legislation enforced by this Department, the operator will be required to correct them.

I have also spoken to four complainants to explain the above situation and, although clearly unhappy about it, they appear to understand that we are not permitted to take action that is outside our legal power.

Naturally, if you or Councillor Jennings would like more information, you are welcome to contact me by phone (but I may be out on the District) or by email (which will be answered on my return to the office).

The Clerk was also advised that the only place in the Blaby District area where on-street food sales were not allowed was Kirby Muxloe. It was resolved to write to Mr. J. Wells, Blaby District Council asking what the procedure is to set up bye-laws in order to prevent the sale of food in the streets of Countesthorpe.

Meeting closed @ 9.05 pm.

Signed Chairman Dated 2007