

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER 2007 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT: -

Chairman & County Councillor	D. Jennings
Vice Chairman	M. Smith
Mesdames	M. Baum, B. Forecast, G. Farrands, C. James, J. Jennings, J. Weatherstone
Messrs:	D. Ball, F.E. Duffield, P. Holdridge, I. Paterson, B. Smith A. Collis-Smith
Mrs. J. Adcock	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. P. Mount	Deputy Clerk to the Council

There were 35 members of the public present.

2007/174. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Rev. M. Gillespie, Mr. T. Blood, Mr. K. Mason and A. Clifford.

2007/175. 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.)

Report of Public Exhibition 12.9.2007

Mrs. G. Farrands – Resident of Scarborough Close

Reports of Working Parties, Representatives, District Councillors & County Councillor
Finance working party – Mr. P. Holdridge – Associated with Reality Youth Group

2007/176. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 9th August 2007 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2007/177. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY - There were none.

2007/178. POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman invited WPC Morris to give her report:

WPC Morris stated that there had been 16 reported incidents over the last month these included:-

- 1 x Attempt 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 then asked if any members of the public wished to raise any matters with WPC Morris.

Several parishioners raised their concerns about motor cycles being ridden in a dangerous manner causing concern to motorists and pedestrians. Concern was also raised about the noise they were making.

WPC Morris stated that she was aware of problems and several youths had been spoken to. She asked parishioners to contact her with details of incidents and registration numbers so that she could take further action.

The Chairman thanked WPC Morris for attending tonight's meeting.

2007/179. DISPERSAL ORDERS - No action needs to be taken at present.

2007/180. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- Leicestershire Footpath Association – programme of walks 2007/2008
- Rural Community Council – A.G.M. 27.9.07
- Leicestershire County Council – Branchline newsletter
- Leicestershire County Council – Managing Ponds for Wildlife Course
- Leicestershire County Council – Adult Care Service Consultation – 8th August – 29th October 2007
- Blaby District Council – Stock transfer proposal/housing strategy consultation meeting & document
- Council for the Protection of Rural England – Fieldwork magazine
- Village Voice

2007/181. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mrs. J. Jennings reported on the following:-

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 Notification of decision in respect of proposed work to trees:

Application No. 07/0641/1/TY Land adjacent to 10 The Rowans – Topping and lopping of 5 no. Ash Trees.

PLANNING PERMISSION

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0705791 PY 27.06.2007	4 Stonecroft	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0705721 PX 25.06.2007	5 Orchard Lane	- ditto -
0705961 PY 28.06.2007	11 The Rowans	- ditto -
0705631 PY 21.06.2007	1a Leicester Road	- ditto -
0701381 PY 16.02.2007	71 Gwendoline Drive	- ditto -
0706231 PX 5.07.2007	9 Beechings Close	- ditto -
0705491 PY 18.06.2007	Dine India, 62 Main Street (Change of use of land to create additional car parking area)	REFUSAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION
0706571 PX 17.7.2007	12 Willoughby Road	- ditto -
0706311 PX 9.7.2007	Land rear of 82 Station Road	- ditto -
0706111 PX 4.7.2007	18 New Street	- ditto -
0706131 PX 5.7.2007	21 Springwell Drive	- ditto -
0706321 PX 3.7.2007	10 Linden Avenue	- ditto -
0705181 PX 12.6.2007	10 Willoughby Road	- ditto -

PLANNING APPLICATION

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0702451 PY	5A The Drive	REVISED SCHEME Retention of garage & erection of gates	No observations
0707191 PY	Hill Farm, Hill Lane	Creation of menege	No observations
0707431 PX	11 Heather Way	Two storey side extension	No observations

2007/182. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0707481 PX	28 Springwell Drive	Two storey front & side extension (Re-submission)	Alien to the existing property and as such would be a discordant visual element & detract from the pleasant appearance of the existing building.

2007/183. REPORT OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION ON WEDNESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2007 – LAND NORTH OF BORROWCUP CLOSE, COUNTESTHORPE

The Chairman stated that although members of the consultancy firm RPS had been invited to the meeting to discuss in public the draft planning proposals for the area of land adjacent to Borrowcup Close and Scarborough Close, they had declined, preferring to hold, as they had done the previous day, an exhibition.

The Chairman then proceeded to make the followings points:-

As no plans have been received by Blaby District Council there was very little that could be discussed this evening.

When plans are received the Parish Councils remit is to make observations only. These are then submitted to Blaby District Council.

As a member of the Planning Committee at Blaby District Council the Chairman stated that he would not take the Chair or comment on the planning application when it is received as this would preclude him from speaking and voting at any planning meeting held at Blaby District Council. This also applies to Mrs. Weatherstone and Mr. Duffield who were also members of the planning committee at Blaby District Council.

A guarantee was made by the Chairman to call a Special Parish Meeting when plans are received to discuss this matter in full.

A discussion ensued and the following observations were made by residents:-

The sewers on the Leysland estate have not been adopted by Severn Trent. The Clerk was asked to write to Severn Trent to obtain information on this matter.

Residents welcomed the fact that the Parish Council had not held a private meeting with RSP Consultants.

A request to hire a room in the Village Hall for a meeting of residents was requested. The Chairman advised that they should contact the office on Monday to see when a room is available.

Bats had been seen in the vicinity of the proposed development area.

Major concerns were raised about the volume of traffic that would use the already busy estate roads. The traffic would exit onto the main Winchester Road which at peak times was very congested with school traffic.

Construction traffic would also cause major problems on the narrow roads of the estate.

2007/184. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES – REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY (MONTHLY MEETING)

Mr. F.E. Duffield reported on a working party meeting held on Monday 10th September 2007 in the Parish Office where the following was discussed:

Retirement Policy of employees of the Parish Council who reach the age of 65. It was suggested that a further meeting be arranged so that the Policy obtained from Blaby District Council could be adapted.

Cemetery Foston Road

The request for the creation of a woodland area was again discussed by the working party and it was proposed that the Clerk make enquiries to explore the possibility of purchasing some land next to Foston Road Cemetery for use as extra burial ground and new woodland.

Mr. Kenyon from the Forestry Department, Leicestershire County Council had been consulted about tree work at the cemetery. He recommended that the following work should be undertaken:

- Cut up fallen pine and remove arisings: - £115.00
- Raise lower branches around rest of group for mowers etc; remove several small self-set ash saplings - £58

It was resolved to accept this quotation.

The request from a firm of Monumental Masons to the Parish Council to waiver the fee of £22 for the erection of a memorial for a family in the Village was discussed. A decision not to waiver the fee was decided. This decision was upheld and the Clerk was asked to write to the Monumental Masons.

A request has been made by a gentleman to make a memorial for his father's grave. A meeting took place with the son of the deceased who stated that he would make up a memorial of granite cobbles with a memorial plaque.

The Clerk advised that memorial stones were usually put in place by professional stone masons who are required to erect them to NAMM standards. If a member of the public is to be allowed to carry out such work the following would be required:

- Materials to be used seen and approved by the Council
- A Method Statement
- Risk Assessment
- Written assurance that the stone will be erected to NAMM standards
- A fee of £22 would be required by the Council
- The work to be carried out at a time and date agreed with the Clerk

It was resolved to allow this headstone to be erected subject to the above.

Bus Shelter – The Square

The Clerk stated that she had received a revised quotation from Littlethorpe of Leicester Ltd. for a bus shelter. They had been able to source a different contractor to remove and install their shelter which had reduced the total cost of the bus shelter to £4590. The shelter is being purchased in conjunction with Leicestershire County Council who would pay half of the cost. The new quotation will therefore be forwarded to the County Council for their approval.

This was resolved.

Spoilbank

The Clerk has received a letter from the Council's Solicitor, Dixon, Cole & Goddard stating that the boundary hedge at the Spoilbank is assumed to be jointly owned by the Parish Council and Persimmon Homes as there is no definite identification at the Land Registry.

ROSPA REPORT

Mr. A. Collis-Smith volunteered to look at the report and discuss what repairs could be carried out in house, in the first instance.

Inventory

The Clerk reported that she had undertaken two checks of the inventory on 5th Marcy 2007 and 3rd September 2007. Everything was in order on these occasions.

2007/185. LACK OF PARKING FACILITIES FOR RESIDENTS OF CENTRAL STREET

The Clerk read two letters from residents in Central Street who are concerned about the lack of parking in the Central Street area.

The Chairman asked if any residents present wished to speak.

The following concerns and comments were raised:

- Blaby District Council had introduced parking restrictions on the Central Street car park between the hours of 8am. & 6 pm. Monday to Saturday. The length of stay is for 3 hours.
- Select Homes are constructing a building adjacent to the car park and have been given temporary permission to use 3 spaces.
- No notification had been received by residents about the building being constructed.
- Were the garages in Reedpool Close, owned by Blaby District Council, available for rent?
- Could residents use the 4 spaces on the Health Centre site owned by the Parish Council as residents parking?

Members discussed this matter and the following points were resolved:-

- To write to Mr. J. Wells at Blaby District Council, the officer responsible for parking within the district, to ask him if consideration could be given for a parking permit system to be operated.
- To ascertain whether or not any garages were available for rent in Reedpool Close.
- Any one can use the four spaces owned by the Parish Council in the Health Centre and it was felt that this should remain.
- Write to Blaby District Council re the amount of parking spaces Select Homes are actually taking up in the car park.
- Parking is available in The Square
- To place this item on next months agenda for further discussion.

2007/186. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Finance working party

A report from Matt Brown, Director Reality Youth Project set out the work he had carried out with the young people of the village

An application from the Trustees of the Reality Youth Project for grant aid has been received. In previous years the Council has awarded grant aid under Section 137 of £2000. It was resolved to grant once again £2000.

Youth Café

A grant of £300 was donated to the Youth Café and Council last year. A report and balance sheet has been received. An amount of £17.85 has not been used and a request to use this money towards food for the Youth Council has been received.

It was resolved to let the Youth Council keep the £17.85.

The following letter has been received from Jane McCormick, Area South Democracy Worker:

“As you are aware I have been working with Tammy Ballard on the Countesthorpe Youth Council Project, from this September I will be working as part of the Countesthorpe Locality Youth Work Team for four months as part of my final year University placement.

One of the projects I will be managing is the annual Countesthorpe World Aids Day Event to be held at Countesthorpe College on Thursday 28th November 2007. In past years this event has engaged around 150 students, raising their awareness about AIDS through educational workshop sessions during study time throughout the day, and a drop – in information session at lunchtime.

I am planning to follow a similar format for the event as previous years, but I do need to source some external financial support to make sure it is delivered to the usual high standards as previous years. Consequently, I am writing to you if you would consider making some of your Youth Funding allocation available to help with the cost of this event. The amount I would require is £300. This will pay for two single mobile provisions at a special rate of £100 each for specialist resources – leaflets, literature and WAD red ribbons”.

The Clerk was asked to write to Ms. McCormick to ascertain whether she was requesting a total of £300 from the Parish Council for the project or whether she had obtained other funding and wished the Council to make the amount up to £300. It was resolved to offer an amount up to £300 when further information is received.

District Councillor

Complaints have been received about a banner that had appeared on the Paddock fence. Permission had not been sought from Blaby District Council, the owners of the Paddock. If this banner is not removed further action will be taken.

Best Kept Front Garden Competition

The winners of this year’s competition are –

FIRST PRIZE - BEST KEPT GARDEN

Mr. & Mrs. D. Tinker,
13 Fir Tree Close,
Countesthorpe.

SECOND PRIZE - BEST KEPT GARDEN

Mr. & Mrs. D. Brough,
9 Borrowcup Close,
Countesthorpe

THIRD PRIZE - BEST KEPT GARDEN

Mr. & Mrs. R. Pople,
2 Mull Way
Countesthorpe.

BEST HANGING BASKET/TUB

Brenda Welsh
51 Wigston Street,
Countesthorpe.

CHAIRMANS CHOICE

Mr. & Mrs. M. Coughlin,
45 Bassett Avenue,
Countesthorpe.

BEST COMMERCIAL/NON DOMESTIC PROPERTY

Ms. E. Coughlin/Mr. G. Jones,
The Bulls Head,
13 Main Street,
Countesthorpe.

2007/187. VILLAGE HALL UPDATE

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

	£
Leicester College – National Certificate for personal licence holders (K.Mason)	170.00
Blaby District Council – Rates	235.00
BOC – Gas for bar July & August + 6 cylinders rental	59.92
Pratt & Chesterton – carrying out PAT testing	164.79
Tranter – maintenance of fire alarm/emergency lighting system	189.99
Secom – annual monitoring/Redcare alarm Secom	554.98
ESPO – gas	1.07
Severn Trent Water – rates	599.00
ESPO – cleaning materials/stationery	169.93
Scottish Courage – beers	1379.08
Waverley TBS – wines/spirits	368.93
PSS – Alarm activation – 25.8.07	30.21
Blaby District Council – Premises Licence to 22.9.08	180.00

Salaries for 2007:

Bar Manager/cleaner x 2	700.83
Countesthorpe Parish Council – tax returns/pensions/caretakers salary	399.02

Refund of Deposits

	£
Mrs. Derry – 8.9.07	150.00
RPS Planning & Development Ltd. – 11.9.07	50.00
J. Pymm – 15.9.07	150.00
V. Crofts – 29.9.07	50.00
F. Millward – 6.10.07	50.00
B. Watts – 7.10.07	50.00

The Clerk was asked to make enquiries about a sensor for the alarm in the garage as it appears that the alarm was activated by a spider.

2007/188. PARISH PLAN – REPORT THEREOF

Mr. I. Paterson reported that a meeting had taken place with the web master. It had been decided to carry out a make over of the site and make it more user friendly.

400 visits are regularly made to the site each month.

2007/189. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE - There was nothing to report.

2007/190. MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT – PARA 12 (2)

Correspondence re Members' Code of Conduct – paragraph 12 (2) was circulated to members prior to the meeting, the content of which was noted.

Mr. I. Paterson wished to raise the matter of how the Code of Conduct was being interpreted and whether or not the Council should seek advice from other sources. He further added that at last months meeting two Councillors were not allowed to question the officer attending the meeting from the County Council and in fact had had to leave the room as it had been deemed that they had a personal and prejudicial interest in the item.

Mr. Paterson considered that they had no personnel interest and as County Council make the final decision on such matters they could not have a prejudicial interest.

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had taken advice from the Monitoring Officer at Blaby District Council as she is required to do so if a query arises.

Mr. A. Collis-Smith agreed with Mr. Paterson's comments and stated that he felt that he had been unable to give first hand information on the matter; he could see faults in the plans but could not raise the matter.

Mr. I. Paterson formally proposed that in future the Parish Council should get advice from a different source.

When put to the vote it was resolved to write to the Standards Board of England and ask if the Council could seek advice from anyone else other than the Monitoring Officer at District Council as it felt that the system at present was working against local democracy.

2007/191. BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL LICENSING ACT 2003 –
CONSULTATION OF LICENSING POLICY

This document was circulated to members prior to the meeting in order that members could make comments if they so wished. The following was mentioned:

Police advice given to the District Council re the Bulls Head had been ignored.

2007/192. OPEN SPACE SOCIETY – REPLY FROM THE CHARITY COMMISSION

This letter was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The comments of which were noted.

2007/193. ROTARY CLUB OF BLABY – REQUEST TO HELP WITH
ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN HAND IN VILLAGE

The Rotary Club of Blaby has invited the Parish Council to submit environmental projects in the village which they may be able to assist with.

Two areas in the village that would benefit from such help would be the planting of the area in front of the brick wall in the Spinney or the planters (boxes) in front of the shops at the Bank.

2007/194. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	8004.82
J. Adcock – postages	29.43
A.R. Smith – Engraving for cups/trophies – Best Kept Front Garden Comp.	72.96
R.E. Bowers & Freeman Ltd. 2 x plaques	196.23
Fishers (Leicester Ltd.) refund of headstone fees	£20.00
Wicksteed Leisure to repair roundabout + cradle seat – Dale Acre	371.65
D. Ball – (Ikea) Frames for Best Kept Front Garden Comp.	17.94
ABC Motors – petrol/oil	175.59
Blaby District Council – Grass cutting	907.81
EP Builders Merchants – small bag of post set	16.31
Communicorp (Clerks & Councils Direct) subs	9.50
Glebe Gardens – Vouchers Best Kept Front Garden Comp.	93.00
Reality Youth Project – Section 137 (Grant Aid)	2000.00
Shaw & Sons – Financial booklet	15.95
ESPO – benches	629.82

2007/195. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR
INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY – There were none.

2007/196. CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION

Councillors were reminded that this would be held on 28th of September 2007 – 7pm. for 7.30 pm.

Meeting closed @ 9.30 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2007