

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 8th MAY 2008 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT: -

Chairman &
County Councillor Mr. D. Jennings

Vice-Chairman Mr. M. Smith

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

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

Mrs. J. Adcock Clerk to the Council

There were 10 members of the public present.

2008/81. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mr. K. Mason, Mrs. J. Weatherstone and Mrs. P. Mount, Deputy Clerk to the Council

2008/82. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST ON THE AGENDA

Listed below are Councillors who wished to declare an interest in the following:-

Planning Matters:

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

Mr. D. Jennings (Planning Blaby District Council, Leicestershire County 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

2008/83. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF OFFICE

Mr. D. Jennings proposed, seconded by Mr. F.E. Duffield that Mr. M. Smith be Chairman for the ensuing year. This was unanimously resolved.

- (a) Signing of Declaration of Office – Mr. M. Smith took the chair and thanked members for electing him. He duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

2008/84. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Mrs. M. Baum proposed, seconded by Mrs. G. Farrands that Mr. D. Ball be Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. This was unanimously resolved.

2008/85. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES: -

It was resolved that the following were duly elected to be the Parish Council's representatives.

- a) Council for the Protection of Rural England – Mr. I. Paterson
- b) Countesthorpe Twinning Association – Mr. I. Paterson
- c) Blaby Branch of the Local Association of Parish Councils – Mrs. J. Weatherstone and Mr. A. Collis-Smith
- d) Countesthorpe Information Centre-Management Committee – Mr. D. Jennings
- e) Countesthorpe College/Sports refurbishment scheme/Community Council – Mr. K. Mason
- f) Police Liaison – Mrs. Y. Bennett, Mrs. J. Weatherstone, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Mr. D. Ball
- g) Leicestershire County Council Community Forum – Mr. I. Paterson

WORKING PARTIES

Planning – Mrs. J. Jennings, Mr. K. Mason, Mrs. M. Baum, Mr. A. Clifford, Rev. M. Gillespie, Mrs. G. Farrands

Maintenance of Council Properties – Mr. D. Ball, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Mr. T. Blood, Mr. A. Collis-Smith, Mr. K. Mason.

Best Kept Village/Front Garden Competition - Mrs. M. Baum, Mrs. C. James, Mrs. J. Weatherstone, Mr. T. Blood, Mr. A. Clifford. Mrs. G. Farrands.

Finance - Mr. K. Mason, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Mr. M. Smith, Mr. I. Paterson, Rev. M. Gillespie, Mr. P. Holdridge, Mr. A. Collis-Smith

Policy & Resources The Chairman of all working parties + the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

The Chairman's Reception - The Chairman, Mr. I. Paterson, Mrs. C. James, Mr. D. Ball and Mr. F.E. Duffield

Tree Warden – Mrs. C. James

Footpath Warden – Mr. A. Collis-Smith, Mr. B. Smith and Mr. A. Clifford

Street Lighting Warden – Mr. D. Jennings

COMMITTEES:

Village Hall Management Committee – Mr. K. Mason, Mr. I. Paterson, Mr. F.E. Duffield, Mr. T. Blood, Mr. D. Ball, Mrs. M. Baum.

DISCIPLINARY – Chairman + Five members of the Parish Council

APPEALS – Vice-Chairman + Five members of the Parish Council

The Chairman is ex-officio on all Working Parties and Committees.

2008/86. TO ARRANGE DATES, TIMES & VENUES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. D. Jennings proposed seconded by Mr. D. Ball that meetings should be held on the second Thursday of the month in the Village Hall and start at 7.30pm. Mr. I. Paterson made an amendment seconded by Mr. F.E. Duffield that the meeting should start at 8 pm. When put to the vote the proposal was carried. It was resolved that Parish Council meetings should be held on the second Thursday of each month at 7.30 pm. in the Village Hall.

2008/87. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 10th April 2008 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2008/88. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

a) A letter of thanks was received from the Parochial Church Council at St. Andrews Church for all the work undertaken in the Churchyard and the cemetery Foston Road. Thanks was also given for the financial help received for the Church roof and the Church clock.

b) A letter of thanks was received from the Chairman of the Stuart Cosby Memorial Trust thanking the Council for grant aid of £1,000. Mr. I. Paterson declared an interest in this item as a member of the Trust.

c) A letter of thanks was received from Countesthorpe Cricket Club thanking the Council for the pledge of Financial Assistance towards the ball stop fence. Mr. M. Smith and Mr. D. Jennings declared an interest in this item as members of the Cricket Club.

d) Blaby Central Community Forum The Clerk asked if any member would like to attend the meeting of the Blaby Central Community Forum to be held at the Narborough and Littlethorpe Parish Centre on Thursday 22nd May 2008. Mr. I. Paterson volunteered to attend this meeting and report back to the Council.

e) Mr. F.E. Duffield made reference to minute 2008/77 and asked if Tammy Ballard had been in contact with Steve Parker in order that grant aid can be sought for youth work. The Clerk replied that as far as she was aware Tammy had approached Steve Parker and was awaiting his response.

2008/89. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk read the following two reports from WPC Barbara Morris and Steve Parker re recorded incidents in the village during the last month.

Between the dates of 1st – 30th April 2008 there were 12 recorded incidents of crime which were:-

- 2 Cycle thefts from Countesthorpe Community College
- 1 Burglary at Greenfield Primary School
- 2 Assaults
- 4 Damage
- 3 Thefts

Monthly ASB

- Criminal Damage – Shetland Way
- Vandalism – Stroma Way

2008/90. DISPERSAL ORDERS

No action needs to be taken at present.

2008/91. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- Scouts Gala – Saturday 21st June 2008
- Blaby District Council – Appointment of Parish/Town Councillors to Standards Committee
- Blaby District Council – Community Safety Plan Looks Forward
- Leicestershire County Council – Manor House News
- Leicestershire & Rutland – Playing Fields Association - Newsletter

2008/92. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mrs. J. Jennings reported on the following:-

Notification of decision in respect of proposed work to trees – application number 08/0273/1/TCCS (The Rick House, Main Street). Works to be carried out in accordance with BS 3998: 1989 “British Standard Recommendations for Tree Works”.

PLANNING PERMISSION/REFUSAL

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0801801 PXCS 14 March 2008	1 Paddock Close	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0801051 PYCS 4 February 2008	Ash Tree Farm, Peatling Road	- ditto -
0800511 AYCS	Bulls Head Public House, Main Street	- ditto -
0802471 PYCS	56 Reedpool Close	- ditto -
0801611 PXCS	7 Skye Way	- ditto -
0802051 PYCS 3 rd March 2008	2 Kirkfield Road	Refusal of Planning Permission
0802141 PXCS 31 st March 2008	Land adj. To 1 Almond Close	Refusal of Planning Permission

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0802541 PXCS	9 The Leys	Single storey rear extension, conversion of garage to habitable room and new flat roof to conservatory	No observations
0801611 PXCS	7 Skye Way	Single story front, two storey side/rear extension, single story rear extension & pitched roof to front	No observations
0802621 PXCS	13 Edgeley Road	Addition of conservatory to rear extension of property	No observations
0803041 PYCS	Land rear of 1 Austrey Lane	Retention of change of use of agricultural barn to storage for building materials & alterations to front elevation	No observations

2008/93. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0803021 PXCS	9 Gwendoline Drive	Erection of one dwelling	No observations

Persimmon Homes have made a planning appeal re land to the north of Borrowcup Close (110 dwellings). The start date for the public enquiry was 21st April 2008 and comments have to be in no later than 2nd June 2008. It was resolved to send a letter re-iterating the following comments:-

- Concern about the amount of traffic such a development will engender. Borrowcup Close is a quiet cul-de-sac and the access through to the development is too narrow.
- The sewers on the existing development are still unadopted and could cause major problems for any new development.
- The development would infringe into the Green Wedge.
- The existing infrastructure, i.e. schools and health centre would be unable to cope with all the extra residents.

It was also resolved that parishioners should also write again with their observations.

2008/94. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES – REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY (MONTHLY MEETING)

A meeting took place in the Spoilbank, The Woodlands on Wednesday 7th May 2008 where the following was discussed:

Post Box – A new post box has been erected on the green on Rosebank Road although at present it was not open for letters.

Stepping Stones have suggested that they would be interested in funding a project (with the consent of the Highways Department) on the hedge in Green Lane, Countesthorpe. However, an official request would have to come from Countesthorpe Parish Council. It was resolved to send an official request asking for this work to be carried out.

Willoughby Road Playing Fields A request has been made by a parishioner to fly his model aeroplane on Willoughby Road playing fields. There are no bye-laws covering this but advice from Blaby District Council is that if it is allowed the Parish Council must advise the parishioner that he has to have his own insurance to cover this in case of any accidents.

Fencing at Dale Acre A quotation of £1,430 has been received for fencing at the bottom of the park facing the bungalows on Shetland Way. This fence is owned by the Parish Council and is in a very bad state. The elderly residents are encountering grave problems with youths in this area. The Clerk has applied for a 50% grant aid from Blaby District Council but has been advised that no work can be undertaken until it is known whether grant aid is available (July time). It was resolved that the quotation of £1,430 be accepted and that it would be ordered after it is known whether grant aid is forthcoming, possibly July.

A second letter has been received from a resident of Shetland Way asking the Parish Council to pay for and erect a wrought iron fence alongside of her property similar to the one erected last financial year further down the park. A letter was sent to her following last month's meeting advising her that there were no available funds for this year. It is recommended that the resident approaches Leicestershire County Council (Mr. I. Grierson at Croft Depot) to ascertain the ownership of this fence. A letter of support for the resident has also been received from Sandra Wooding, Assistant Community Safety Officer (ASB Team) at Blaby District Council. A quotation had been received for the erection of a wrought iron fence in this area and it was for £2,500. It was resolved that there were no funds available for this fence.

Land adjacent to the Foston Road Cemetery A letter has been received from the District Valuer advising that the area of the field is 6.2 acres and that land is now valued at anything from £7.5k to £10k an acre with £15,000 per acre on land on the periphery of the village. In addition the owner would expect other costs to be met such as relocating the access and any related planning permission costs, relocating of water supplies and solicitor's fees etc.

A general discussion ensued and it was agreed that the cost sounded excessive. It was therefore resolved that the agent be approached to ascertain how much they would be willing to sell the land for and a site meeting take place by the Maintenance of Council Property working party in the field to ascertain how much of the field is required.

2008/95. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mrs. M. Baum reported that the Best Kept Front Garden working party had recently met and after careful consideration the format of the competition was to be changed. Nominations were to be invited for the Best Kept Front Garden. A report would be inserted in the Herald and on the web site. Nominations forms would be held in the Parish Office, Library, Rainbow Shop, Health Centre, College and Glebe Gardens. The following garden vouchers would be provided by Glebe Gardens:-

Best Kept Front Garden – 1st Prize £50 2nd Prize £25

Best Hanging Basket/Tub (must be visible from the road) - 1st Prize £25 2nd Prize £10

There is also to be a Special Recognition award. The winner will be awarded the Chairman's Choice Trophy and a £25 garden voucher donated by the Parish Council.

2008/96. VILLAGE HALL – REPORT THEREOF

The Clerk reported that there appeared to be a crack in the roof in the foyer and also a water mark. She had invited P. Oswin to investigate the problem and he had thought that there was evidence of mice in the roof. The pest controller at Blaby District Council had visited the premises and inspected part of the area but Health & Safety rules prevented her from entering further into the roof space. They recommended a pest controller that was used by Blaby District Council. It was resolved to invite him to investigate the said area.

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

	£
Blaby District Council – Rates	244.00
BOC – Gas for bar	20.68
John Maynard – Stock take 2.4.08	75.00
CA Electric Ltd. – Service & De-scale hot water boiler	91.59
BT – telephone for bar	81.48
ESPO – Cleaning materials	124.66
ESPO – Gas – Feb/March	318.84
Amber – Service glass dishwasher + filter	150.02
Glebe Gardens – two shrubs	12.57
Performing Righth Society – PRS Music Licence	400.46
Scottish & Newcastle – Beers	1201.74
Waverley TBS – Wines & spirits	356.28
E-ON - Electricity	877.60
ADT Fire & Security – Maintenance CCTV	172.38

Salaries for May 2008:

Bar Manager + cleaner x 2	705.02
Countesthorpe Parish Council – tax returns/pensions/caretakers salary	352.97

Return of Deposits

Mrs. E. Dean – 2.5.08	150.00
Countesthorpe Twinning Ass. – 10.5.08	150.00
Waitrose Ltd. – 17.5.08	150.00
C. Winsper – 31.5.08	150.00
Mrs. B. Davies – 7.6.08	150.00

2008/97. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE There was nothing to report.

2008/98. FOULING OF LAND BY DOGS (BLABY) ORDER 2008

Mr. A. Collis-Smith stated that he had read in the Blaby Chronicle that Blaby District Council were having to ‘provide’ dog wardens to ‘control’ dogs on any land in the district. He did not believe that it was right to expect ratepayers to provide extra monies from the precept to carry out this work.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that due to new Government legislation and the ‘Clean Neighbours Act 2008’ the police were no longer in charge of this job and it was left to the local authority. The consultation period finishes at the end of May and if anyone had any objections to the new proposals they should write and offer their comments.

2008/99. VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION OF LAND OWNED BY PARISH COUNCIL

The Clerk reminded members that a decision had been made several months ago to register all land in the village owned by the Parish Council. There were only two areas left awaiting registration, these being Dale Acre and the land to the rear of the notice board on Gwendoline Drive. A letter had been received from the solicitor J. Webb stating that he was now in a position to register a title in respect of the Dale Acre on the basis of the documentation held. The cost would be £500 + VAT plus a land registry fee of £30. It was resolved to pay the fees and ask J. Webb to continue with registering the land. With regard to the small piece of land on Gwendoline Drive the paperwork supplied was not sufficient to support an application for registration and he felt that the Land Registry would be extremely reluctant to grant a title without more evidence.

2008/100. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	8092.56
J. Adcock – postages	35.47
ABC Motors – petrol/oil	141.60
Countesthorpe Parish Council (Village Hall) VAT quarter ending 31.3.08	18.80
Greenfield School – Grant Aid (section 137)	300.00
Information Commissioners Office – Renewal	35.00
Open Space Society – Annual subscription	30.00
R.E. Bowers & Freeman – 2 plaques	199.75
B. Telecom – office telephone	186.74
Allianz Insurance – annual premium	4516.87

Mr. M. Smith who is a Governor at Greenfield School declared an interest in the account paid to Greenfield School.

2008/101. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- a) The Clerk read a letter of introduction from the new Waste Minimisation and recycling Officer. It was resolved to refer this to the Maintenance of Council Property working party.
- b) The Clerk reported that ‘An Open Spaces Meeting’ was to be held on Tuesday 10th June 2008 2pm. – 4 pm. in the Council Chamber, Blaby District Council.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2008