

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 12th JUNE 2008 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT: -

Chairman	Mr. M. Smith
Vice-Chairman	Mr. D. Ball
Mesdames:	M. Baum, G. Farrands, C. James, J. Jennings, J. Weatherstone
Messrs:	T. Blood, A. Clifford, A. Collis-Smith, F.E. Duffield, P. Holdridge, D. Jennings I. Paterson, K. Mason,
Mrs. J. Adcock	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. P. Mount	Deputy Clerk to the Council

There were 15 members of the public present.

2008/102. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Rev. M. Gillespie, Mr. B. Smith, and Mrs. B. Forecast.

2008/103. 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 & Housing Blaby District Council)

Mrs. J. Weatherstone (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

2008/104. PRESENTATION BY ARTS & HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL – SALLY WOCHA

The Chairman welcomed Sally Wocha the Arts and Heritage Development Officer from Blaby District Council and invited her to speak.

Blaby District Council, in partnership with Glebe Garden Centre, is hosting a music event for the local community, local young people and young people from around the county over the weekend 16 – 17 August. Saturday 16 August (11am. – 4 pm.) will be a family orientated event with live music, workshops and information stands. From 5 pm the Blaby District heat of a ‘battle of the bands’ style competition will take place. Sunday 17 August will be a

county final for all district 'battle of the bands' style events this summer (12 noon until 7pm.). The project is being led by a group of local young people who have been meeting regularly and are learning all aspects of event management/delivery.

Blaby District Council is funding the hire of a professional set up managed by Slyarts, including stage, p.a., lighting technical support and stage management. The competition will involve a panel of judges who will award scores to each band; a range of prizes will be awarded to all participants – these have in the past included studio time, cash, sponsored instruments. For the Sunday event each participating district will bring two winning bands and their fans from their local 'battle of the bands' competition to Countesthorpe and compete against other bands from around the county for the title of Supersonic 08. Each coach of young will be accompanied by youth workers/helpers. Both days of the event will be assisted by event marshals, who will receive a full briefing prior to the event. Catering vans, toilet facilities and St John Ambulance will be in attendance.

The Chairman thanked Sally for her presentation.

2008/105. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 8th May 2008 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2008/106. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY - There were none.

2008/107. POLICE MATTERS

Between the dates of 1st – 31st May, 2008 there were 21 recorded incidents of crime which were:-

- 2 Cycle thefts from Countesthorpe Community College
- 3 Assaults
- 5 Damage
- 9 Thefts (3 of which were thefts of lead from the school and medical centre which appear to be on the increase throughout the district)
- 1 Theft of Licence Plate (again an increasing trend throughout the district)
- 1 Theft of car (which as yet has not been recovered/found)

The following ASB report was received from Mr. S. Parker, Blaby District Council:

22/5/08 Street Drinking, Countesthorpe

The Clerk reported that she had requested a Police Liaison meeting but was still waiting for the Police to come back with a date and time.

2008/108. DISPERSAL ORDERS

No action needs to be taken at present.

2008/109. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

- CPRE – Branch Newsletter & Fieldwork Magazine
- Open Space Magazine
- Village Voice

Leicestershire County Council – Newsletter
Town & Parish Standard Newsletter
Leics. & Rutland Playing Fields Association – A.G.M. – 25.608
Leicestershire County Council Trading Standards Consumer Affairs

Blaby District Council

Awards for Outstanding Achievements 2008
Vacancy on Standards Committee
News Release Arts Festival – June 9th – 15th
Investment in Car Parks

2008/110. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mrs. J. Jennings reported on the following:-

a) Planning application number 07/1023/1/PXCS Griffs Bodyworks Ltd. 85 – 87 Station Road has received planning permission. Mr. K. Mason queried the following condition attached to the permission:

Before the first occupation of the first dwelling the applicant shall enter into an agreement (or similar) with the District Planning Authority to make a contribution towards the refurbishment/improvement of local library facilities.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that under section 106 the developer is required to donate a fee towards local facilities.

Mr. K. Mason queried why the County Council had received this funding when the Parish Council had not been consulted.

Mr. D. Jennings replied that he also was unsure why this had happened and had asked for the matter to be put on the agenda of the next Community Forum meeting.

After a discussion Mr. D. Jennings was asked to raise the question at County Hall of how to obtain funding for the Parish Council from certain planning applications that were ear marked to contribute to local facilities. The Clerk was also asked to write to the Chief Executive of both County Hall and Blaby District asking the same question.

b) 8 Laurel Drive – Planning application number 06/0126/1/PX – This matter is currently an enforcement investigation. Plans have been submitted in an attempt to see if the alterations to the development can be accepted as a minor amendment to the original approved plans.

c) 54 Cosby Road – Planning application number 08/0380/1 /PX. The Chairman asked if members of the Parish Council had any objections to Mrs. Freer, 52 Cosby Road, speaking. No objections were raised.

Mrs. Freer objected to the above planning application as the proposed extension would interfere with her existing gas flue.

After a discussion the Parish Council felt that there were no planning reasons to object to this application.

d) Planning application 08/0358/1/OX (Outline) Residential Development – Land off Winchester Road (North of Blaby Golf Course) Blaby.

A discussion ensued and the following observations were made:

- The application is outside of the District Plan
- The development is an intrusion into the ‘Green Wedge’. The extra traffic would be too great for the current road systems.
- It is felt that the proposed access onto the site is insufficient.

The Chairman asked if members of the Parish Council had any objections to Mr. C. Hearndon, 13 Woodlands speaking. No objections were raised. Mr. Hearndon asked if this was the first phase of the development.

The Chairman replied that at this point in time no further details were to hand.

PLANNING PERMISSION/REFUSAL

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0802621 PXCS 17.4.08	13 Edgeley Road	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0802541 PXCS 8.4.08	9 The Leys	ditto -
0803721 PX 18.4.08	50 Maple Avenue	ditto -
0803041 PYCS 23.4.08	Land rear of 1 Austrey Lane	ditto -
0710231 PXCS 7.2.08	Griffs Body Works Ltd. 85 – 87 Station Rd	ditto -
0802671 PYCS 7.5.08	86 Station Road	ditto -
2008028201	Severn Trent Water Ltd Sewage Pumping Station, Leicester Rd.	Leicestershire County Council Granted
0803021 PXCS 26.3.08	9 Gwendoline Drive	Refusal of Planning Permission

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0803721 PX	50 Maple Avenue	New pitched roof to front, single storey side ext. incorporating garage & rear conservatory	No observations
0803801 PX	54 Cosby Road	Single storey front & side & first floor rear extensions & new pitched roof at front	No observations
0803381 OX	Land at 10 Willoughby Road	Erection of 5 dwellings with associated alterations to existing vehicular access (Outline)	Overdevelopment of site. Traffic problems on this part of Willoughby Road

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0802671 PYCS	86 Station Road	Construction of a concrete sectional shed	No observations
0804031 PX	16A Cosby Road	Single storey rear extension	No observations
0804041 PX	19 Westfield Avenue	Two storey side & rear & single storey rear extensions	No observations

2008/111. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0804191 PX	8 Marston Crescent	Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, canopy porch & bay window to front	No observations
0803581 OX	Land off Winchester Rd. (north of Blaby Golf Course) BLABY	(outline) Residential Development	Outside the District Plan. Intrusion into Green Wedge. Extra Traffic. Insufficient access.

2008/112. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES – REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY (MONTHLY MEETING)

A meeting took place in the field adjacent to the Cemetery Foston Road on Monday 2nd June 2008 where the following was discussed:

Foston Road Cemetery The working party feel that it would be prudent to look into the possibility of purchasing the field adjacent to the cemetery for burial purposes. The Clerk reported that she has received information from the District Valuer as to what the land is worth. The Clerk was asked to contact the owner's agent, E.A. Lane & Sons, to ascertain the cost of this field.

The bottom of the double wooden gate into the cemetery needs to be repaired.

The Spinney It is proposed that the damaged seat in the Spinney be replaced with a metal and wooden seat at a cost of £398 + fittings. It was resolved to purchase this seat.

New Mower One of the current mowers is broken. The cost to repairing the mower would be £312 + vat. The groundsman has requested a reconditioned 20 mower at £175. The size of the mower was queried but it was decided to leave this to the groundsman who has to use the equipment. This was resolved.

2008/113. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Best Kept Front Garden The next working party meeting will be held at 6 Laurel Drive at 7.30 pm. on the 23rd June 2008.

Mr. D. Jennings, District Councillor gave mention to the following:

Premises License – an application was received by the District Council from Glebe Gardens. This is for live music on Saturday and Sundays to terminate at 9 pm.

Garages Glebe Drive – A garage had been let by Blaby District Council to a non-resident of Countesthorpe. After several incidents, one involving the Police, the tenant was evicted. This particular garage has now been demolished. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive of Blaby District Council asking for a review of their policy whereby local residents only are considered.

Finance Mr. K. Mason asked the Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Policy and Resources working party to discuss the appointment of an Assistant Clerk.

Community Forum

Mr. D. Jennings reported that car parking charges in Blaby were discussed at the Community Forum held at Blaby District Council. Mr. Beard informed the meeting that a consultation on charges had taken place in 2005. It is proposed that charges will be incurred after the first 20 minutes.

A discussion ensued and the Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive at Blaby District stating that the Parish Council was disappointed that no formal approach with regard to the proposals had ever been received. A copy of the proposals in writing was to be requested.

2008/114. VILLAGE HALL – REPORT THEREOF

Mr. K. Mason reported on a meeting of the committee that was held on Thursday 5th June 2008:

Alarm System The alarm was triggered on two occasions last month. Two engineers have inspected the system and were unable to ascertain why the alarm was activated. It was felt that an upgrade as well as the two separate systems being merged would improve the system.

A meeting was held with a consultant from Secom, the Clerk and the Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee on 10th June 2008 and a price of £1403.65 was quoted to carry out rewiring, upgrading the system and merging the two alarm systems.

It was resolved to accept this quotation.

Finances

End of year accounts had been circulated to members of the Village Hall Management Committee.

A surplus of £2672.87 was recorded. An increase of £500 was shown from the last statement of 31st December 2007.

It was felt that the profits for the Village Hall were insufficient to cover maintenance. It was resolved to increase the bar prices as from 1st July (after consultation with the Bar Manager).

2008/115. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE There was nothing to report.

2008/116. VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION OF LAND

The following letter has been received from Dixon Coles & Goddard the Council's solicitor

Thank you for your letter of 14th May 2008, I am taking steps to proceed with the paper work in respect of Dale Acre and will let you have this for consideration in due course.

With regard to Gwendoline Drive, unfortunately simply caring for a piece of land is no longer sufficient to guarantee a possessory title.

To prove adverse possession it is normally necessary to show that you have enclosed the land and it has been used exclusively by you for your purposes.

Clearly this is extremely difficult with any parcel of open space land as by definition it is neither enclosed nor for your exclusive use.

I am perfectly happy to submit an application for registration of Gwendoline Drive but I have serious doubts as to whether we will be able to persuade the Land Registry to grant us a possessory title.

It was resolved to accept the solicitor's advice and take no further action with regard to Gwendoline Drive at this point in time.

2008/117. C.P.R.E.

A newsletter from the Campaign to Protect Rural England (Leicestershire) was circulated to members for information with regard to the proposed 'ecotown' for countryside on the south-eastern side of Leicester.

2008/118. COUNTSTHORPE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Mr. I. Paterson reported on the following:

Last month a party of visitors from the twinned town of Mennecey, France came to stay in Countesthorpe.

The Countesthorpe College choir will be holding a concert in Mennecey during the summer holidays.

Pupils from Greenfield School correspond regularly with their counterparts in Mennecey via the e mail system.

Next year will be the 25th anniversary of twinning between Countesthorpe and Mennecey.

2008/119. CAR PARKING CHARGES IN BLABY DISTRICT AREA

This item was dealt with under minute 2008/113. Reports of working parties, representatives, District Councillors & County Councillor

2008/120. (a) AUDIT – TO ACCEPT ACCOUNTS 2007/2008 & (b) TO APPOINT INTERNAL AUDITOR FOR 2008/2009

a) The Chairman Mr. M. Smith reported that he had received a letter from the internal auditor who had reported that the accounts for 2007/2008 were in good order.

The final account for 2007/2008 had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. It was proposed and resolved that they be accepted. The Chairman duly signed the documents.

b) The Clerk asked that Mr. B. Wilford the internal auditor be appointed to carry out the internal audit for 2008/2009. This was resolved.

2008/121. WINCHESTER ROAD NEAR LINDEN AVENUE – PROPOSED ZEBRA CROSSING WITH SPEED REDUCING MEASURERS

A letter and map of the proposed works for a zebra crossing in the vicinity of Countesthorpe Community College has been received from the Highways Department for comments. This letter was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

It was noted on the map that only one set of speed cushions are marked and the letter quotes two sets. The Clerk was asked to clarify this.

This work should be completed by the end of the summer holidays.

Station Road – Kerbing Improvements

The Clerk read the following letter:

“Local Safety Scheme is proposed for the above from the Transportation Capital Programme 2008/2009:

Recommendations from a safety study carried out along Station Road, suggested that a 25mm kerb upstand should be implemented to the section of footway and carriageway outside of the Railway Inn public house and the Hairdressers as shown on drawing no. 3265.00/Z1/1/2. This will help distinguish the edge of carriageway and start of footway for both vehicles and pedestrians.

For your information I am pleased to inform you that measures to improve the existing zebra crossing on Station Road near Hallcroft Avenue and Gwendoline Drive have now been ordered. I envisage these improvements to be implemented by the end of the summer holidays”.

2008/122. CLIMATE CHANGE – FUNDING & ADVICE AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

Correspondence was circulated to members prior to the meeting. Mr. K. Mason volunteered to be the Council’s representative.

2008/123. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages	8175.74
J. Adcock – postages	41.42
ESPO – Cartridges for printer, shed fence treatment	86.13
Blaby District Council – Grass Cutting	928.72
C’thorpe MOT Test Centre – New starter motor	162.15
ABC Motors – Petrol/oil	106.00
Oswin Builders – replace roof slate – Chapel of Rest Cemetery	29.38
Chapman’s Garden Repair Centre – Strimmer line	14.99
B.W. Wilford – Internal Auditor – Signing off	130.00
Glebe Gardens – Bedding plants & multipurpose soil	670.88
S.L.C.C. – 2 x courses	105.75
Canon – Rental of photocopier	225.14

2008/124. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

a) County Arms Public House Site – A public exhibition of the proposed planning application for this site will be held at Glen Parva War Memorial Hall, Dorothy Avenue, Glen Parva on Friday 20th June from 3.30pm. – 7pm. to give an opportunity to the public to find out about the proposed scheme and ask questions before the plan is submitted to Blaby District Council.

b) A request for sponsorship has been received from Miss A. Pullen daughter of the late Anna Pullen to raise money for Loros and the Blaby and Whetstone Boys Club. As the Council are unable to sponsor a single person if any Councillor would like to contribute the Clerk has the necessary details.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2008