

THE MEETING OF THE COUNTESTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL WAS HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL, STATION ROAD COUNTESTHORPE ON THURSDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2008 AT 7.30 PM. WHEN THERE WERE PRESENT:

Chairman: M. Smith

Vice-Chairman: D. Ball

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

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

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

There were 6 members of the public present.

2008/181. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Were received from Mr. I. Paterson.

2008/182. 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 & Housing Blaby District Council)
Mrs. J. Weatherstone (Planning Blaby District Council)
Mrs. M. Baum (8 Laurel Drive – personal & prejudicial)
Mr. B. Smith (32 Station Road – personal & prejudicial)

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

2008/183. MINUTES OF A MEETING Held on 11th September 2008 as circulated by the Clerk were approved as a correct record.

2008/184. MATTERS ARISING FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Green Lane Traffic Matters:

The Council sent a letter to the Department of Highways expressing the Councils grave concerns about HGV vehicles being routed along Green Lane by Satellite Navigation systems and asking for a site meeting with officers, so that the damage, and the unsatisfactory nature of the road, could be seen.

The following reply was received:

“I appreciate your concerns and those of parishioners, the site is known to me and notification has been made to the companies involved with preparing Satellite Navigation systems about the unsuitability of this route.

This information will eventually filter through into new systems but the production and scheduling is not under our control and as such we cannot give any guarantee of what future systems contain and how they are interpreted by drivers.

However, I will make some further investigation into the potential for introducing a width/length/weight restriction to reduce the type of incidents you have mentioned. Additionally, there may be some signing that can be used to deter vehicles and this will also be looked into.

Once investigations have taken place my assistant will be in a better position to discuss the issues and will arrange a site meeting to go through any potential solutions”.

After a discussion the Clerk was asked to write back to the Highways Department asking that ‘access only’ signs be erected in the short-term until a final decision is made.

2008/185. POLICE MATTERS

A Police Liaison meeting was held on Monday 29th September. Inspector Chell and WPC Barbara Morris attended the meeting.

Mr. D. Ball reported on the following:

Inspector Chell would be recommending to his Superintendent that a Section 60 operation be mounted in Countesthorpe.

Reports of vandalism and disorderly behaviour should not only be reported to the Police but also to Blaby District Council, Community Safety Team.

The Clerk had received a telephone call from a resident of Foston Road who had advised her that she had contacted County Highways independently re speeding along Foston Road. A survey had been undertaken and it had been ascertained that the average speed of motorists travelling along Foston Road towards Countesthorpe was 42 mph. To this end, a more in depth survey is to be undertaken. Following this a decision will be made as to what further action will be taken.

The Council feel that this matter should be vigorously pursued in order to reduce the speed of vehicles entering the village.

The Clerk was asked to arrange to have the tree cut back that obscures the 30 mph sign near the cemetery.

PCSO Adam Hicks has now become a full time servicing Police Officer. The Council wish to congratulate him and thank him for the work that he has done within the village.

The Clerk reported that since the Police Liaison meeting the following actions have been taken:

On Friday 3rd October Superintendent Swann organised a Section 60 operation in Countesthorpe. Notices went up in the village to inform residents that this operation was taking place.

An e mail from Inspector Chell reported that it had been a successful evening. Many people were searched and persons were taken home who were drunk.

A letter received from Teresa Neal, Community Safety Team Leader, Blaby District Council was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. This letter explained what actions were required before an Anti Social Behaviour Order (ASBO) is applied for.

It was reported that a curfew order had been applied for in areas of Lutterworth – could Countesthorpe do the same? The Clerk was asked to look into this matter.

Mr. A. Clifford advised that a team of detached youth workers could be sent to ‘hot spots’ within the village on a short term intervention basis. For this to happen the Police need to make a request for the youth offending team to visit the village. The Clerk was asked to write to Inspector Chell requesting such a visit.

2008/186. DISPERSAL ORDERS There was nothing to report on this matter.

2008/187. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

Leicestershire Footpath Association – programme of walks
Leics. County Council – Food Waste Campaign & Master Composter Scheme
Leicestershire Matters – Newsletter
Leicestershire Fire & Rescue Service – Newsletter
Town & Parish Standard (standards Board for England)
Communities & Local Government – Making & Enforcement of Bye-Laws – A consultation
Village Voice
Tree News

Blaby District Council

Minutes of Standard Committee
Voluntary Action Blaby District (VABD) newsletter
Waste Minimisation + Recycling
Sustainable Community Strategy
Corporate Plan 2008/2011
Big Switch Off - Climate Change

2008/188. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mrs. J. Jennings reported on the following:-

Hallam Land Management Ltd. held a public exhibition and consultation at Countesthorpe Cricket Club on Friday 19th September re land at Leicester Road, Countesthorpe. As no planning application has been submitted at this point in time the Parish Council are unable to make observations.

Proposed Changes to the East Midlands Regional Plan have been received.

The Chairman asked if members would permit a resident of The Chestnuts to speak on planning application number 08/0783/1/PX (revised scheme) for 8 Laurel Drive. No objections were made.

At this point Mrs. M. Baum stated that she had a private and prejudicial interest in this application and left the meeting.

The resident explained that the extension to 8 Laurel Drive had been completed but did not conform to the original planning permission therefore a revised application had been made. He pointed out to the meeting that the new plans were inaccurate and misleading.

The working party felt that the following observations should be made:

If this application is to be dealt with by officers, the Case Officer should make a site visit.

Concerns have been raised by neighbours.

It is felt that the plans show incorrect dimensions and inaccuracies in the drawing.

The plan is very misleading.

The Council agreed that these comments should be forwarded to Blaby District Council.

Mrs. Baum returned to the meeting.

Planning Permission/Refusal

Plan No. & Date	Address	Blaby District Councils Decision
0807371 PY 28.8.08	13 Cosby Road	Application granted subject to conditions attached to planning permission
0807121 PX 1.9.08	18 Rosebank Road	ditto
0807181 PY 19.8.08	120 Station Road	ditto
0806421 PX 14.8.08	25 Westfield Avenue	ditto
0806991 PX 12.8.08	10 Willoughby Road	ditto
0805621 PX 30.7.08	Ash Tree Farm, Peatling Road	Refusal of Planning Permission
0806661 AY 1.8.08	Co-op Store, 8 Main Street	Ditto

Planning Applications

Mr. B. Smith left the meeting whilst the planning application for 32 Station Road was discussed as he had a personal and prejudicial interest with this application. He returned after it had been discussed.

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0807781 PX	41 Winchester Road	Two storey front/side & rear ext., first floor front ext., front porch & rear conservatory	Overdevelopment of the site.
0807771 PX	43 Winchester Road	Two storey front, side & rear ext. & single storey rear ext.	Overdevelopment of the site.
0807911 PX	22 Hallcroft Ave.	Single storey side ext.	No observations
0807841 PX	32 Station Road	Rear conservatory & pitched roof over existing garage	No observations
0807371 PY	13 Cosby Road	Single storey conservatory to rear	No observations
0807321 LY	9 Church Street	Demolition of part of front boundary wall & erection of iron railing gates & brick pillars (to enable the formation of a vehicular access of 2 off-street parking spaces)	As previous observations. The P.C. is concerned about highway issues in this very busy street (it is in the conservation area). If permission is granted the P.C. would like a turning circle within the garden (in order that they could drive out forwards)
0804601 OX	77 Station Road	Erection of 3 detached dwellings & associated parking (to include replacement of existing dwelling) & proposed new vehicular access (outline) (Revised Scheme)	As previous observations: Overdevelopment of site. Against tandem development. Drainage problems.
0807601 OX	Land rear of 168 & 170 Lutterworth Road & rear of 7-51 Lichfield Drive, Blaby	Erection of 50 dwellings with associated public open space & vehicular access off Lutterworth Road (Outline)	Outside of village plan. Would cut into the green wedge
0803581 OX	Land off Winchester Road (north of Blaby Golf Course) Blaby	Residential Development	Public enquiry – 11-12 November (B.D.C.)

2008/189. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FROM BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PUBLISHED

Plan No.	Address	Description of Application	Observations
0807861 TY	21 Borrowcup Close	Reduce crown by 50% of one Silver Birch tree & reshaping	It is felt that a 50% reduction is too much for this species of tree.

2008/190. MAINTENANCE OF COUNCIL PROPERTIES – REPORT FROM THE WORKING PARTY (MONTHLY MEETING)

A meeting of the working party took place on Monday 6th October 2008 in the Parish Office. Mr. D. Ball reported on the following:

Dale Acre

Grant aid of £715 has been received from Blaby District Council towards replacing the fence owned by the Parish Council at the bottom of the park. Mr. Ball wished to congratulate the Clerk on her persistence in pursuing the request for grant aid.

As a quotation for this work had already been accepted the contractor has been notified and work will begin in the near future.

War Memorial

An email has been received from a relative of the late Donald Neville Cadoux asking that his name is not included on the war memorial in Countesthorpe as at the time of his death he was living in Australia and was therefore commemorated on several war memorials in Australia.

In view of this it was resolved to write to the relatives of the other soldiers that were to be added to the war memorial asking for their permission and also to inform Mrs. Schultka of this decision as she originally instigated this action.

Parish Office

The deskjet colour printer in the Parish Office has developed a fault. It was resolved to replace this with a laser printer which would be networked to allow either of the PC's in the office to use it. The total cost of the printer and installation - £275 + vat.

Willoughby Road Playing Fields

Mr. Kenyon of the Forestry Department Leicestershire County Council was asked to visit the playing fields to inspect the ash trees along the boundary of the field. He reported that:

1) The Ash tree with major broken & hanging branch requires immediate removal of the damaged section, and because of the resulting asymmetry of the tree, pollard the crown to a basic low branch framework which should then regenerate bushy growth next season. Estimated cost £550.

2) Five other ash trees along this boundary are affected in various ways because of decay fungal hollowing; weak forks; split stems; deadwood etc. These should be attended to by pollarding; branch removal; cleaning out deadwood as appropriate. Estimated cost £1500.

It was resolved to have the ash tree with the broken branch dealt with immediately at an estimated cost of £550 and to make allowances of £1500 in next year's budget to have the other trees attended to.

Zebra Crossing Winchester Road near to Linden Avenue

The Clerk has written to the Highways Department about the poor visibility of the new belisha beacons.

Members wished to congratulate the Highways Department on the 'Zebrite' beacons that had been used on Station Road and wondered if these could be installed on Winchester Road.

Green Alert!

A copy of a letter from the Open Spaces Society was circulated to members prior to the meeting. The contents were noted.

Gwendoline Drive/Station Road

Problems have arisen with youths picking apples from the trees on the open space and throwing them at windows along Station Road and Laurel Drive. Several reports of broken windows have been reported to the police.

The Clerk was asked to write to the land owner (Leicestershire County Council) informing them of the problem.

Proposed New Burial Ground - Land adjacent to the Cemetery Foston Road

Before further negotiations take place with regard to the above land the Clerk reported that she needs to apply for outline planning permission. A water undertaker will also have to be consulted (with the landowner's permission).

Closed Churchyard

A meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 21st October at 10am. with the Rev. D. Hebblewhite, to discuss fencing in the closed churchyard.

Planters

The groundsmen have been busy planting pansies etc. in the planters around the village. Vandals have been just as busy removing them. It was suggested that an article be sent to the Herald about these problems.

ROSPA Report

Mr. A. Collis-Smith and the senior groundsman are inspecting the park equipment after the ROSPA report to see what work needs to be carried out.

2008/191. REPORTS OF WORKING PARTIES, REPRESENTATIVES, DISTRICT COUNCILLORS & COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Mr. D. Jennings gave mention to correspondence he had received from Voluntary Action Leicester re grant aid for small voluntary and community groups in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The information will be forwarded to the Herald for possible inclusion in their next issue.

The Chairman wished to thank the Clerk and staff for all their help at the Chairman's reception.

2008/192. VILLAGE HALL – REPORT THEREOF

Mr. K. Mason reported on the following items:-

CCTV

The CCTV has been upgraded. New infra red cameras have been affixed to the rear of the building and to the front of the building. The new camera at the front of the building is now able to pick up most of the front car park as far as the bench on the main road. The cost was £947.89. It was felt that this would help curb the anti social behaviour that has been occurring.

Alarm System

After a lot of teething problems and a meeting with the Area Manager the alarm system is now working well. All key holders are now in possession of a fob.

Car Parking Survey

The Chairman arranged for a survey to be issued to all Parish Councillors and members of the Village Hall Management Committee and other interested parties who had complained about anti social behaviour on the car park (front and rear of the Village Hall).

At the Police Liaison meeting the removal of the bench and the proposals for a fence were discussed. It was felt that these actions would not solve the problem.

It was felt that the Police had a moral duty to protect the residents and take stronger action. Members felt that improving the CCTV would be a great advantage for all concerned.

2008/193. YOUTH WORK WITHIN THE VILLAGE

The Chairman has received a letter from Tammy Ballard, Youth Development Worker stating that she would no longer be working in Countesthorpe. Sarah Johnson will be taking over until a replacement is appointed.

Mr. A. Clifford stated that Kirk Sellars, pending CRB clearance, will be taking up the appointment on 1st December 2008.

2008/194. CAR PARKING MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS – BLABY DISTRICT COUNCIL

A letter re car parking management proposals was circulated to members.

Mr. D. Jennings stated that the parking fees in Blaby car parks would be as follows:

First hour free, second hour 50p, third hour £1 and fourth hour £1.50.

Residents could apply for parking permits.

Blaby District Council spends £140,000 per annum on up-keeping car parks in the district. Sufficient monies to cover this cost will not be raised by these charges.

2008/195. SECTION 106 MONIES

The Rev. M. Gillespie will be arranging a working party meeting to prepare a 'shopping list'.

The Clerk read an e mail from a resident of Countesthorpe re '106 monies'. The comments were noted.

2008/196. OPEN SPACES SOCIETY – GREEN ALERT

This matter was referred to under Maintenance of Council Properties.

2008/197. CLOSURE OF AUDIT 2007/2008

The following queries were raised by the auditor:

a) The balances of the Public Works Loan Board statement.

The Clerk had accordingly forwarded copies of the two PWLB statements for 2007/2008.

b) The work of the internal auditor should be subject to an engagement letter on first appointment by the Council setting out terms of appointment (this is set out in the Practitioner's Guide 2008 para. 2.73).

Previously, the internal auditor had been hired via a telephone call, but this would now be done in accordance with the Practitioners Guide 2008.

The Auditor Clement Keys has now given 'an unqualified audit opinion' (2007/2008).

2008/198. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT – TO ADOPT A NEW MODEL SCHEME

The original Publication Scheme was adopted in December 2002 minute 2002/338.

In 2002 the Council resolved not to charge for searching or photocopying of documents.

It was resolved to adopt the new Model Scheme of the Freedom of Information Act including the following:

- Anyone wishing to search for information has to make an appointment prior to visiting the office.
- Reserve the right to make a charge. (For time taken and photocopying)

2008/199. LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS - NEWSLETTER

A copy of the Leicestershire & Rutland Association Newsletter was circulated to members prior to the meeting.

The Clerk asked if Councillors would like future newsletters circulated or if it would be sufficient to retain a copy in the office for inspection.

It was resolved to retain a copy in the office.

2008/200. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The following accounts were passed for payment:-

	£
Countesthorpe Parish Council – Wages/pensions	8020.21
J. Adcock – postages	44.92
C.S. Platnauer – catering for Chairman’s evening	600.00
Blaby District Council – grasscutting	696.54
Blaby District Council – Dog Bin The Rowans	160.00
Reality Youth Project – grant aid Section 137	2000.00
Canon – Rental of photocopier	225.14
Clement Keys – Audit 2007/08 accounts	1028.13
David H. Dalby – Adding name to Chairman’s Board	28.00
A.R. Smith – Engraving cups for Best Kept Front Garden	72.00
C’thorpe Parish Council (Village Hall) Drinks for Chairman’s evening	85.84
BT – Internet Services	158.62
ABC Motors – petrol/oil	160.99
A. Sutton – Refund re purchase of grave space	90.00
EON – Revised electricity Church Clock	17.68
P.P.G. Architectural Coatings EMEA – paint for play equipment	44.03
Rich & Carr – Independent witness singing documents for land registry @ Dale Acre	11.00
Glebe Gardens – Roundup/ grass seed/pansies/daffodils/gift vouchers	492.46
R. Wilding – Certificates of Best Kept Front Garden Competition	25.00

2008/201. MATTERS THAT THE CLERK MAY WISH TO RAISE FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY

The Rural Community Council (Leics. & Rutland) and ENABLE (Environmental Action for a Better Leicestershire) are arranging two Climate Friendly events to help community groups find out ways they might work together to help fight rising fuel costs and consider climate change issues. Seminars are being held in Harborough & Hinckley & Bosworth Districts. For further information contact Diana Cook, Project Manager at the Rural Community Council.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed Chairman

Dated 2008